

bors for some quieter opening to fish in. But the Terns and the great fleets of Bonaparte Gulls, that all summer long drifted, like snow-clouds round the blue bays, had all left in October, when these were first silvered with the breath of December.

The Kittiwake is the true bird of the wintery wave. In the narrows of the harbor, where the contracted current is swiftest, there is often a restricted opening in the ice, even in midwinter. When the deep waters of the Gulf are frozen solid as far as the eye can see from the most elevated hilltop, the Kittiwakes will come in and gather round this little spot of blue, circling and dipping and rending the keen air with their harsh *ke-a, ke-o* reminding us, as we watch them amid nature's fiercest aspect, of the amazing possibilities of animate being.

It will be observed that our northern visitors are about the same as appear in the neighboring Provinces of the mainland. It is otherwise with our summer visitants from the South. A number of birds of more southern habit, as the Catbird, Bluebird, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Meadow Lark, Baltimore Oriole, and Whip poor-will, which visit New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, are never seen on Prince Edward Island. There is no reason to be found in the existing state of things why some of these birds should not stay over here and enjoy our delightful summer season, which is superior to that of the Atlantic seaboard. The reason is to be found in the fact that the Island was separated from the mainland in the earlier days of the modern period, when the climate was cooler than at present, and the more southern tribes of birds had not yet distributed themselves in these northern Provinces. Since their distribution in these parts the Northumberland Straits have proved a barrier to their movements which they have not yet learned to overcome.

In the birds the fact shows the exceeding tardiness with which they adopt new lines of migration, and, consequently, the tenacity with which they adhere to established habits in their migrations and distribution.

It also reveals something of the great northward movement of the feathered tribes which must have followed the recession of the cold of the Glacial Period, pointing out those which were the last to arrive within the limits of these Provinces.