

The Shag or Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus*, Pall.) belongs to the Steganopodes or Totipalmate* order of birds, which is distinguished by having the hallux or hind claw drawn to the front, so that the foot is three-webbed, a peculiarity which is not shared by any other order. Another peculiarity is the possession of a naked gular pouch, which in the case of the Pelicans (*Pelicanus*) is enormously enlarged, but is quite rudimentary and non-functional in the Cormorants. It is rather curious that the Steganopodes, in common with a few other orders comparatively low in the avian scale, are altricial, that is the young, like the young of the Insectorials or singers and perchers, are immaturesly hatched, and therefore require to be fed and tended by the parent birds.

The Pigeon Guillemot (*Cephus columba*, Pall.) has a pure white space on each wing, called the "mirror," which contrasts finely with the sooty black colour of the body, hence seamen call it the "white-winged diver."

When the tide recedes at Ucluelet Arm the pools are full of Star-fishes (*Asterias*), Sea-urchins (*Echinus*), Anemones (*Actinia*), Mussels (*Mytilus*), various Gastropods, Hermit-crabs (*Pagurus*), and Barnacles ; and how delightful it is to watch the harmonious mingling of colours, forms, and movements. in these limpid salt-water pools of a soft emerald green.

Several genera of Star-fishes are represented, but the most common is a species of the typical genus *Asterias*, the individuals of which are nearly as varied in their colour as the flowers on a vine of morning-glories. Some are yellow, others purple, and others again brown, and in seeking a solution to this problem of difference of colour in the same species, I advance the following as a simple explanation.

It is well known that under domestication animals are more varied in their coloration than they are in a wild state, as is

* "Having all four toes connected by webbing."—*Jordan*.