

this plumage appears at any other time than in the Fall of the year; in this dress the birds are rare here, and apparently pass its stages in some wild place, or region where they are not easily detected. The hunters about the coast told me that these spotted birds were very rare. In the early Fall the pigeon is quite tame, but grows wilder as the cold weather advances. When pursuing them with a boat they are at times easy to approach, while others most difficult, and they are often very wild without any apparent reason. The pigeon will usually dive "at the flash"; but often, especially when feeding, it allows you to approach quite near to it. In feeding the bird bends its neck forward and dips its beak into the water; at this time, when the head is turned forward and a little away from the hunter the latter is generally sure of securing his game. Sometimes the pigeon takes wing nearly as soon as it perceives a boat approaching, and it is then impossible to get within shooting distance of it; its flight is at such times rapid but easy, generally low and in a straight line. When tame they usually escape by diving rather than by flight and by swimming long distances under the water; they do this easily and in any direction they may choose. When wounded they often dive, as do many of the duck family, swim or sink to the bottom, and, clinging to the seaweed, die there. I have often watched them dive at such times and never return. On still, warm days they stay near the land feeding, often in large numbers. In large flocks specimens showing a greater or less degree of albinism may be frequently taken or seen. When flying low over the water a long distance away, if fired at and not hit, I have seen them drop suddenly to the water and dive, thus escaping the hunter who does not know, at so great a distance, in what direction to watch for their reappearing. The flesh, especially of the young bird, is excellent eating, and for this reason they are shot in great numbers; they are regarded as the hardest bird to kill, next to the loons, that dwell here. The pigeon breeds in large numbers on several of the small islands along the coast. On one island a colony of