

must presume their natural food was not discovered by them in the fresh waters which they visited so foolishly, and they do not appear to have sufficient instinct to return to salt water, as numbers of them were caught alive on the ice when the water began to freeze over for the winter. They appeared to be very tame, keeping near the shores of the rivers and lakes. Some of them went up the St. Francis River as far as Sherbrooke, and the Richelieu to Lake Champlain, also up the Ottawa to the City of Ottawa; but the bulk of them appeared to have followed up the north shore of the St. Lawrence to Lake Ontario, as far as Toronto and Hamilton. Many of them were shot on the lake near Toronto. It seems strange that these birds should remain inland during the winter, to be frozen and starved to death, when we consider that it would have been an easy matter for them to return by the rivers to the sea to their natural waters; but they appear to have totally lost themselves on our inland waters, and the only reason I can assign for their unusual lack of natural instinct is, that they were all young birds, for the bills of those that were shot were not as long as those of adult birds. The fact of these birds apparently being all young birds would suggest an interesting habit in the life history of this species, and one which, I believe, has not been noticed heretofore, namely, the adult birds separating themselves from their fledged young, or, on the other hand, the latter flocking together in the fall of the year without the former's company. Another cause for the remarkable inland flight of these young Murres during the past two years in succession, might have been two unusually prolific breeding seasons, during which the young birds, seeking for food, followed the high tides up to Three Rivers, where, having followed the course of the St. Lawrence so far up it is possible, they were actuated thereby to continue further inland up to the Great Lakes, when, if they had sufficient instinct to return down the