

indicate nests merging smoothly in colour and outline into the surrounding surface. In the mornings the cormorants are seen flying away from the rock in singles and in small flocks of a dozen or more. In the late afternoon the greatest number return, but throughout the day birds can be seen both going and coming. About sunset most of the resident birds are in place on the rock. The gulls cover the less elevated positions and the few isolated crags, while the masses of dark bodied cormorants make nearly solid black splashes on the summits of the gently rolling elevations. At such times it was estimated that there were 1,000 cormorants on the rock, but as stragglers continue to come in until dark it is probable that the total population of cormorants on Percé rock is in the neighbourhood of 1,200 or 1,300 individuals. Local observers and residents place the number much higher, but I do not think their estimates can be substantiated.

Differing in habit from many sea birds, the juvenile and non-breeding cormorants seem to live during the nesting season in the same communities with the adult birds. Most water birds separate through the breeding season, the young and the adult birds occupying different localities through the summer, and not mixing together until after nesting duties are accomplished. On the Gaspé coast, however, old and young cormorants are seen constantly together, the latter evidently roosting at night in the immediate vicinity of their elders and accompanying them in mixed flocks to and from the feeding grounds.

About Gaspé the nesting and other conditions are quite different from those at Percé. Instead of occupying the top of one inaccessible crag they nest in different places on the shores of the bay, none very difficult of access.

On the north shore of the bay, about 3 miles out from Gaspé Basin, near a spot laid down on the pilot charts as "Three-runs," is a colony of about thirty nests built in trees growing from the top and upper face of the cliff and overlooking the sea at a height of about 150 feet. These trees are mostly small birches, with a butt diameter of from 4 to 6 inches, growing from the crest and upper face of the bluff and overhanging the narrow shore and the sea below. This site has probably not been long occupied