

## GENERAL NOTES.

**An Abundance of Murres in the Environs of Quebec.**—Since the 15th of November last, numerous flocks of Murres<sup>1</sup> have been seen flying over the river before Quebec; hundreds have been shot by sportsmen and some have even been killed with sticks near the wharves. The cold in December has been from 15° to 25° Reaumur, but it did not seem to inconvenience them. Several, however, that had left the water to rest on floating ice found themselves unable to remove on account of their wet feet freezing to it; two live specimens thus captured have been brought to me. The presence of these birds is a novelty here, as they are never met with in the environs of the city. Several have even strayed away into the mountains about ten miles from the river; they were exhausted and starving. After the 20th of December their numbers considerably decreased till the 8th of January, when the last were seen. Their presence is probably due to hurricanes in the Gulf of St. Lawrence driving them towards the southwest.—C. E. DIONNE, *Quebec, Can.*

**The Double-crested Cormorant.**—I have read with interest an article on the 'Habits of the Double-crested Cormorant' in 'The Auk' for January, 1894. For the last ten years I have spent one day in the last part of September on the Graves at the entrance to Boston Harbor, the resort for the Cormorants of the north shore. I try to get there on a rising tide, believing that the Cormorants which I drive away fly to an outlying ledge of the Brewsters and there sit on the seaweed until driven off by the tide, when they fly back to the high rocks of the Graves. I generally take two decoys which I put on the top of the rocks and hide myself in a cleft. I generally shoot four or five and try and justify my doing so by giving them to an old inhabitant of Swampscott, in his day a sportsman, who puts them through that process of dissolution which is said to make Coot palatable (but which doesn't), and eats them. I have often seen the balls of fish bones lying on the rocks described by Mr. Mackay, rejections after digestion by the Cormorant, and have, as he says, invariably found the throat of the bird full of fish, generally the common sea perch.—CHARLES P. CURTIS, JR., *Boston, Mass.*

**Correction.**—In my article 'Habits of the Double-crested Cormorant in Rhode Island' (*Auk*, Jan. 1894, p. 20) "*Cancer irroratus* Say = *Panopeus sayi* Smith" should read "*Cancer irroratus* Say and *Panopeus sayi* Smith."—GEO. M. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

**In Re Dutcher on the Labrador Duck.**—Fearing that my statement in the January 'Auk,' p. 11, lines 1 and 2,—“D. M. Cole and his associate, Mr. Cary, saw a female duck with a brood of young which he was sure was this species,”—may give a wrong impression, notwithstanding the conclusion stated at the close of the paragraph, I now state that the bird

<sup>1</sup> [A specimen sent to Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., proved to be *Uria lomvia*.—EDD.]