

Previous to dissolving the capsule of mud, that object presented a hard and baked appearance, and had seemingly been firmly attached to the dried up bed of the river or pool in which the fish had previously carried on its gill-breathing function; and had been broken off by the collector. In this capsule the fish had coiled itself up : a circular opening communicating between its interior and the outer atmosphere, enabling the dipnoid to breathe. The opening was rounded at the entrance, and led inwards by a zig-zag channel. On dissolving the mud the capsule was found to be intermixed with vegetable fibres, which tended to support the capsule.

Protopterus annectens is said to attain a length of six feet.

BIRD MIGRATION. —A bird migration of exceptional magnitude was noticed by many people during the night of October 15th. Several smallpox guardians who were questioned by the writer informed him that birds had passed south in great numbers for several nights previous to the 15th, but that on that night there seemed to be millions of them. The writer's observation covered from about ten o'clock until nearly daylight, and during the whole of that time an unbroken stream of birds passed over the city at a very low altitude. Two distinct kinds of bird-note could be distinguished, one the chippering of small birds, the other the calls of plover, snipe, etc. It was this last sound which attracted general attention, but the other was just as distinct, and could be easily separated from the shorter call of the larger birds. All were probably waders. Doctor Oscar Klotz, who carefully noted the course of the birds, says that it was about southeast. The night was very cloudy and on that account the birds could fly at a low altitude without being seen.

J. M. M.



Macoun, James Melville. 1901. "Bird Migration." *The Ottawa naturalist* 15(8), 187–187.

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