

52. ウナギの生態(3)：構造理解

At the end of this period a change takes place. The eel's eyes and nose become larger, and its skin changes to a silvery colour. Now called a silver eel, it is ready to embark on the last great adventure of its life, the long return journey to the place where it was born.

On autumn nights, especially when rainstorms are causing the rivers and streams to rise or flood, the silver eels leave the places where they have spent so long and start out on their great migration. Some may be obliged to pass over land from their ponds to reach a suitable river running to the sea. This they can do because the eel is able to live a considerable time out of water, in damp surroundings such as wet grass, because it breathes in large part through its skin, like a frog. At length they reach the sea, and set out to cross the Atlantic Ocean to the Sargasso Sea, south-east of Bermuda. Six or seven months later they arrive, and there, having laid their eggs, they die.