

months of September and October, when fruit and nuts, on which it likes to feed, are found in plenty.

The martin is some larger than a squirrel, which it resembles in shape, excepting that its legs and claws are considerably shorter. In the darkness of the night, the eyes have a shining appearance, like those of a cat. It has short ears, which are of a roundish shape. The whole body is covered with a thick fur, which in a mild climate, is of a yellowish colour; but in the colder regions of the north, it becomes of a dark brown, and, in some instances, is nearly black. The skins, which have this dark coloured fur, are much more valuable than the others. The tail is covered with long hair; and under the neck, even of those of the darkest colour, there is a small spot, of a yellowish cast. The flesh of this animal has a rank, disagreeable taste; and is, therefore seldom eaten.

The muskrat, which receives its name from the musk that it affords, resembles the beaver, in every respect excepting its size, which is little larger than the badger. It builds for itself a cabin in marshy places, at no great distance from some water: and feeds on roots, herbs, mice and fish, which it finds dead, on the margin of lakes and streams. In the spring, these animals leave their huts, as they are built in places so low, that they are generally, at that season,