

turned up along its back with the point turned outwards, will open out upon its pursuers with a continuous volley of barking defiance.

“ Ascends the neighboring beech, then whisks his brush and perks
His ears, and stamps and scolds aloud, with all the prettiness
Of feign'd alarm, and anger insignificantly fierce.”

Its note of call or endearment is a kind of prolonged “chirr.” When this sound is made it is immediately answered by its mate, if within hearing distance. Squirrels choose their mates early in life, and so far as known remain faithful to their first love. The mother gives birth to three or four young ones about the beginning of June, and watches over them with great solicitude. The first nest of young squirrels which came under my notice was in a hollow stump at the edge of a pine woodland. The mother would not leave the nest at my approach, nor could I make her do so without resorting to forcible means which I never did. If often disturbed, the mother will remove her young carrying them in her mouth, after the manner of a cat, to another place of safety or concealment. A family of four squirrels took up their residence at our place in the early part of the summer of 1886, and remained with us nearly a year. The young ones were at the time rather more than half grown and were very playful, often playing a game which resembled a popular one with young children called “tag.” From the time the apples in our garden were fit to eat until late in the fall they seemed to live on them almost exclusively. They not only pulled what they wanted for present use, but they stored away a great many in a pile of wood which we had near the house. They also carried off hundreds of crab apples depositing them on trees wherever they could find a forked branch which would hold one securely. They were very particular in selecting such places, and would not leave an apple until they were fully satisfied that it would remain where they put it. They also gathered up a great many plum stones depositing them in hollows made in the ground, and covering them over with an inch or so of leaves or earth ; they had dozens of these little hoards scattered about with no great quantity in any of them. As the cold weather approached they began house building ; selecting a place between the wall plate and the roof of an outbuilding. The nest consisted principally of cedar bark torn into fine shreds ; it was completely covered