

it reach out and pull off a bud with a single paw, felding the toes against the palm in doing so, and also place a piece of a leaf in its mouth with one paw.

#### BALANCING OF OBJECTS.

The squirrel is most expert in balancing objects on branches. Usually it selects either a crotch or the somewhat flat surface at the point at which a horizontal branch comes off from the limb as the place of deposition. When placing anything in position it shifts it a trifle to one side or the other with its paws or muzzle and does not leave it until it is as securely lodged as possible. It succeeds in balancing nuts in situations in which I should not like to undertake to balance them. I noticed that when it hung a long strip of ham-rind, an article of diet with which it can hardly have had previous experience, on a branch it shifted it until the two ends hung equally on each side of the branch. Out of the scores of times that I have seen it balancing objects I have only once seen it let anything fall, and upon this occasion it made a most strenuous effort to catch it but failed.

#### RESTING.

The squirrel does not often rest. It is almost ceaselessly active from early morning till dark, and during this time it is eating almost continuously. However it does rest, and even sleep, occasionally. Its favorite resting-position is spread out along a limb, with its legs out straight in front and behind and with its chin resting on its fore-paws. When it composes itself for a nap it hunches itself up, rests its chin on the limb, and flattens its tail down along its back. I have only once seen it go right off to sleep—as a rule its eyes are closed completely only for a moment at a time.

It has certain favorite places for resting, the most favored situation being on a rather small, nearly horizontal, branch at the point where it comes off from a larger branch. Here it sits with its posterior end against the larger branch in such a way that it gives one the impression that it "fits in" there.

I have seen it stretch—first one paw and then the other—and yawn. It often rubs its jaw and throat along a limb, in this respect reminding one very much of the actions of a cat.

#### WASHING.

After it has eaten anything sticky or greasy it licks its forepaws very thoroughly and then rubs them over its nose. It sometimes spends five minutes thus cleaning up.

#### SCRATCHING.

During the winter it did not seem to be troubled with insects, but in the early spring they apparently gave it a busy time. It scratched and bit itself very

frequently and often for some time at a stretch, causing the shedding hairs of its winter coat to fly in all directions.

#### "FREEZING."

Upon two occasions when a hawk flew over, and upon another when it caught a sound like the scream of a hawk, the squirrel "froze", remaining absolutely motionless for three minutes or more. As soon as it moved it exploded into a loud and long-continued chatter.

#### PSYCHOLOGY.

In the study of any animal the most interesting thing, and at the same time the phase of the subject in which we have to proceed most cautiously in drawing conclusions, is its mentality. My close observation of the squirrel during the past eight months has given me some glimpses of the psychology of this animal.

The sense of ownership is a mental attribute which seems to be well developed. This squirrel appears to regard the sugar maple as its own private preserve. All through the winter it drove away any house sparrows which perched in it. Toward spring another squirrel sometimes came into this tree, and this always resulted in a great deal of barking and chattering, and ended in the retreat of the intruder, hotly pursued. This squirrel was also a male and was as large and apparently as strong as the "owner" of the tree, but it fled without putting up a fight. Once this second squirrel came into the tree when the "owner" was away, and finding some pieces of meat it proceeded to eat them in such a hurry that it choked.

The squirrel watches the things it has stored in the tree most jealously. Upon several occasions a white-breasted nuthatch has come and pecked at some of this food, and whenever this has been observed by the squirrel it has come on the jump and driven it away. Once the nuthatch came and pecked at a piece of meat, the squirrel drove it away, and then as the nuthatch flew the squirrel bounded over to another piece of meat as if it anticipated an attempt upon that piece also.

Does the squirrel know where it has placed things? This question has frequently been discussed and I can answer it most decidedly in the affirmative, as time after time I have seen it go by the nearest route to something it had stored and proceed to eat it. I am not prepared to say that it never forgets anything, indeed if it did not it would imply a far better memory than that of a human being.

Curiosity is an attribute which the squirrel exhibits to a marked degree. Any new object is at once seen, carefully approached and investigated. It seems as if the squirrel's method of investigation entails not only smelling a thing but trying it with