

short flights from place to place. Nine or ten different species have been named, only two of which are found in North America, one in Northern Europe and the remainder in Java. The small American flying squirrel being the only one I have seen in this neighborhood. It is smaller in size than any of our other squirrels. The extreme length of a full grown one being about ten inches, the head and body being a little more than five inches. The head and body are often of a mouse grey color, sides of the nose and all beneath white. On the upper side of the flying membrane the predominating color is brown which on the edge is bordered with white. Its fur is very dense, short and smooth, much finer in texture than the other squirrels. I have seen it stated that these squirrels could fly as far as fifty yards at a time; perhaps they might do so if their starting point were high enough. I never saw them fly more than half that distance, their ordinary flights being twenty or thirty feet. Owing to the fact that flying squirrels are largely nocturnal in their habits they are less frequently seen than they otherwise might be, as they are not so scarce as many people suppose. They are easily tamed and become very amusing little pets. A member of the club informed me lately that he had a tame one for sometime which showed some strange peculiarities, one was, that only at certain hours of the night did it show any activity, namely from about two to four o'clock, a.m. Another, was its simulation of death when it thought itself in danger or when suddenly cornered, keeping at the same time a sharp look out for a way to escape, and the moment the way appeared to be clear it would suddenly come to life again and dart away as quick as thought. Mr. Abbott, whom I have already quoted, states that years of familiar acquaintance with these squirrels have not enabled him to detect much in their habits indicative of intelligence, he continues, "I feel sorry to have so poor an account to give of the beautiful creatures, but I am compelled to say it of them, they are not "smart." Notwithstanding all their vivacity in their native haunts and their eminently gregarious habits, they do not suggest by any of their movements so far as I was able to detect any decided indication of that sociability characteristic of some of the other squirrels. Each on the contrary jumps, runs and flies solely on his own account, associated together indeed but never acting in concert."