

this family live mostly on trees, their long flexible toes with acute nails enabling them to leap from tree to tree, and they very rarely miss their hold. They feed principally on vegetable productions, such as nuts, seed, grain, etc. We cannot but know from the above description that our little rodent is a member of the *Sciuridae* or Squirrel family.

The family of Squirrels is widely disseminated, Australia, Madagascar, New Zealand and the West India Islands being almost the only places where they are not found. According to Bachman about forty different species have been described, eighteen of which are natives of North America. Other Naturalists put the number of species at a much higher figure. Jordan, in his "Vertebrates of North America," states that the number of species is not so great as was at first supposed, many of the so called species being simply varieties. The Black and Gray Squirrels are now considered to be the same species.

In the neighborhood of Ottawa five different kinds of Squirrels have been seen; only two of these are very common, namely, the Common Red Squirrel (*Sciurus Hudsonius*) and the Chipmunk or Ground Squirrel (*Tamias striatus*).

The Red Squirrel is of a dark brownish red along the back gradually turning lighter as we approach the sides; the cheeks are grey and all beneath is white. In some individuals a black line runs from the shoulders along the flank immediately above the white, the tail is of a rusty brown with black hairs on the borders, on the under side it is lighter in color along the middle and grows darker on the outer edges. The length of the head and body is about eight inches and the bony part of the tail about five inches, and including the fur it is between six and seven inches.

The Red Squirrel is a noisy little animal, and makes several distinct sounds expressive of its likes and dislikes. When hunted, so long as it feels that there is danger, it keeps very quiet, but the moment it feels that a place of safety has been reached it makes a quick, short and squeaky bark as much as to say the danger is past. If the supposed place of safety should be a tree it will ascend high enough to be fairly out of the reach of its pursuers, and perching itself upon a branch with its tail