

not balance over a stick or on the hand, however carefully the adjustment is made as to weight; unless it is forcibly held, one end always seems a little heavier than the other and the body slides off to the ground. This comatose condition lasts until the snake thinks the coast clear, when with a sudden jerk it rights itself and if not again molested glides off quickly to the nearest safe retreat; but should it find that the attack is renewed it goes through the whole process of dying over again.

Fox Snakes, *Elaphe vulpinus*, were also common on the same sand dunes. They are colored much like the Adder, but are a slenderer and more gracefully-shaped snake. We found them easily by following up their winding tracks in the sand from willow clump to willow clump, and at last usually discovered them under rotten logs. About the middle of July we found three females under one log with almost a peck of eggs. The eggs are elliptical in shape and covered with a tough leatherly shell that seems to stick together as fast as laid, making clusters like bunches of grapes.

In turning over the logs on the beach for snakes and mice we also found considerable numbers of Blue-tailed skinks, *Eumeces quinquilineatus*. These are locally called Swifts and on a bright warm day the reason of this name is obvious, for they run very rapidly, and it takes considerable agility to catch them, especially as care must be taken to grasping them by the body and not by the tail for the latter breaks off at the least strain, leaving the tailless lizard free to vanish into the debris. The young and half-grown individuals are most beautiful little creatures. All are of the most clean and shapely form with pointed head, slender body, dainty limbs and long, gracefully-tapering tail, but the younger ones have the added beauty of color. The body is coal-black with bright yellow stripes, hence another popular name—and one from which its scientific cognomen is derived—Five-lined Skink. The tail at these ages is a bright sky blue almost iridescent in tone. The adult animals are much soberer, a dull olive-green, with slight bronze reflections to the scales and vague yellowish stripes along the back and sides.

We found several sets of eggs in the cavities of well rotted logs. In all cases an adult was present with them, so it is likely that the mother takes more care of her young than is common among the reptilia. Other specimens captured alive laid eggs in captivity and we managed to hatch out a number of them. Our captives ate ant pupae and flies greedily, which gives us a suggestion as to the nature of their food.