

pet sides of the feet, are of a chocolate colour: the palms, or under sides, are covered with a thick down, like that of the body; the feet are broad, the claws white, large and sharp, well adapted for the purpose of climbing, but, as in others of the weasel kind, incapable of being sheathed or unsheathed at pleasure; the throat and breast are white; the belly of the same colour with the back, but rather paler; the hair on the tail is very long, especially at the end, where it appears much thicker than near the insertion. Of all the animals of the weasel kind, the martin is the most pleasing; all its motions shew great grace, as well as agility; and there is scarcely an animal in the woods, of its own size, that will venture to oppose it. Quadrupeds five times as big are easily vanquished; and even the wild cat itself, though much stronger is not a match for the martin; and although carnivorous animals are not fond of engaging each other, yet the wild cat and the martin seldom meet without a combat. The martin is more common in this country than in any part of Europe. These animals are found in all the northern parts of the world from Siberia to China and Canada. In every country, they are hunted for their furs, which are very valuable, and chiefly so when taken in the beginning of the winter. The most esteemed part of the martin's skin is that part of it which is browner than the rest, and stretches along the back bone. Not many years ago, above twelve thousand of these skins were annually imported into England from Hudson's Bay, and above thirty thousand from Canada.

The **POLECAT** is in great estimation among the Canadian huntsmen. There are three species of this animal; the first is the common polecat; the second is called the minx; and the third, the stinking polecat. The polecat, in general, is larger than the weasel, the ermine, or the ferret, being one foot five inches long; whereas the weasel, is but six inches, the ermine, nine, and the ferret eleven inches. The polecat, for the most part, is of a deep chocolate colour; it is white about the mouth; the ears are short, rounded, and tipped with white; a little beyond the corners of the mouth a stripe begins, which runs backward, partly white and partly yellow; its hair, like that of all this class, is of two sorts; the long and the furry; but, in this animal, the two kinds are of different colours; the longest is black, and the shorter yellowish: the throat, feet and tail, are blacker than any other parts of the body; the claws are white underneath, and brown above; its tail is about two inches and a half. It is very destructive to young game of all kinds; but the rabbit seems to be its favorite prey; a single polecat is often sufficient to destroy a whole warren; for, with that insatiable thirst for blood which is natural to the weasel kind, it kills much more than it can devour. They in general reside in woods or thick brakes, making holes under ground of about two yards deep, commonly ending among the roots of large trees, for greater security. The fur of this animal is considered as soft and warm; yet it is in less estimation than some of a much inferior kind, from its offensive smell, which can never be wholly removed or suppressed.

The colour of the **OTTER** is brown; and he is somewhat of the shape of an overgrown weasel, being long, slender and soft skinned. Its usual length is about two feet, from the tip of the nose to the insertion