

he kept a Red Squirrel in confinement for upwards of two years and fed it exclusively on animal food, and that it became quite fat and glossy in its coat, and showed every sign of perfect health. I have frequently seen them eating the eggs of birds in my own place. This habit is a serious one, as no nests are safe if Squirrels are about. I must say that I like the feathered songsters of the spring so well that if it comes to a matter of choice between them and the Squirrels, I think the latter will have to go. My attention has been called to an article in "Science Gossip" for the year 1873, where it is stated that in one of the large parks in the City of Philadelphia the Squirrels became so destructive of the eggs of the wild birds (there nesting) that, in order to save the birds, it was found necessary to destroy the Squirrels.

Many people suppose that Squirrels are very much averse to water and will never voluntarily take to it. It is not uncommon to read of them—when compelled to cross a stream—making rafts of chips or pieces of bark and getting on board, hoist their tails so that they will catch the wind, and so manage to secure a dry passage across; of course they select a time when the wind is blowing from the right direction. These are pretty stories and quite complimentary to the intelligence of the little navigators. I am afraid, however, that the important element of truth is a missing factor. At one of the Club excursions to Meech's Lake as I was sitting on a rock near its outlet, about fifty or sixty feet from where a bridge spans it, a Red Squirrel came jumping along, and, without a moment's hesitation, plunged into the water and swam across. It was evidently a matter of choice as it could easily have crossed by the bridge.

The Chipmunk or Ground Squirrel is not of the same genus as the Red Squirrel, but as it is far more common in the Ottawa district than the others which are to follow, I will take it up before them. The Chipmunk is smaller in size than the Red Squirrel, a full grown one being about seven inches long, including the head and body; the tail, without the fur, is about four inches long. It is easily distinguished from the other Squirrels inhabiting this part of Canada by the markings along its body, there being always five dark longitudinal and parallel stripes extending from the head to the rump, the spaces between being of a lightish grey. The rump is of a bright tawny color; all the under