



1200 Pioneer Circle, Watkinsville, GA 30677 - 1-866-880-9453 – www.letsgetwild.net

COMMON NAME – Squirrel

SCIENTIFIC NAME – *Sciurus niger* (fox squirrel)

DESCRIPTION –

- Length – 45 to 70 cm
- Weight – 500 to 1000 g
- Varying colors of fur, including reddish, grey, and brown
- Bushy tails

RANGE/HABITAT –

- Worldwide
- Often found in wooded areas, but can also thrive in urban areas
- Like to live near trees that produce winter nuts for storage
- Summer habitats may be as simple as a platform of sticks, while winter dens are usually hollowed out tree trunks

DIET –

- Omnivores
- Nuts and tree buds
- Seeds, fruit, vegetables, and even fungi
- Insects, eggs, frogs
- Even small birds and snakes!

FACTS -

- Squirrels are unable to digest cellulose
- Notorious for eating out of bird feeders
- Will take up shelter in attics and other enclosed spaces at the drop of a hat
- Squirrels are known to chew through electrical wires in search of food. This has resulted in many power outages, most notably the NASDAQ stock exchange...twice!



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COMMON NAME – Eastern Gray Squirrel

SCIENTIFIC NAME – *Sciurus carolinensis*

DESCRIPTION –

- Gray fur with occasional reddish tinge
- White belly and large bushy tail
- Albino and melanistic forms also exist

RANGE/HABITAT –

- Eastern to Midwest U.S. & Eastern Canada
- Live in dreys in the forks of trees, which are formed with dry leaves and twigs
- Also like to build nests in attics or exterior house walls

DIET –

- Hoards foods in numerous small caches for later consumption
- Will take food left by humans in habitat

FACTS -

- Will often retrieve and re-bury caches in safer areas, sometimes within hours
- Accurate spatial memory allows for easy memorization of cache locations
- Hot pepper flakes or hot pepper coated seed will deter squirrels from eating from bird feeders
- Can sometimes lose tail while escaping predators



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COMMON NAME – Fox Squirrel

SCIENTIFIC NAME – *Sciurus niger*

DESCRIPTION –

- Length – 45-70 cm
- Tail Length – 20-33 cm
- Weight – 500-1000 g
- Brown-grey to brown-yellow fur in most areas, dark brown and black fur also exists

RANGE/HABITAT –

- Central and Eastern United States except for New England area, Northern California, Southern Canada
- Smaller forest areas with open understory or urban neighborhoods w/ trees
- Best in areas with nut producing trees

DIET –

- Omnivorous
- Tree seed
- Buds, fruits, grain, etc.
- Insects, bird eggs, small lizards

FACTS -

- Fox squirrels may make a raspy barking noise when alarmed
- Can live up to 18 years in captivity
- Squirrels threaten each other by standing upright with their tails over their back and flicking the tail at the other squirrel



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COMMON NAME – Flying Squirrel

SCIENTIFIC NAME – *Glaucomys volans*

DESCRIPTION –

- Grey brown fur on top with darker flanks and cream color underbelly
- Large dark eyes
- Flattened tail
- Furry membrane (*patagium*) between front and rear legs for gliding through air

RANGE/HABITAT –

- Eastern North America from Southeast Canada to Florida, rarely in Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras
- Deciduous and mixed woods
- Like to nest in holes in dead trees

DIET –

- Fruit and nuts from trees
- Store nuts for the winter
- Insects, buds, mushrooms, fungi, carrion, bird eggs, flowers

FACTS -

- Southern flying squirrels may use holes made by woodpeckers as nesting areas
- Southern flying squirrels have an ingrained sense of where their nests are and can find them from up to a kilometer away!
- Some southern flying squirrels have been trained to be pets by owners who will often place a young flyer in a bag or pouch close to the owner to “bond” with the owner



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COMMON NAME – Eastern Chipmunk

SCIENTIFIC NAME – *Tamias striatus*

DESCRIPTION –

- Length – 5-6 in.
- Weight – Approx. 3 oz.
- Reddish-brown fur on upper region w/ 5 dark brown stripes and contrasting light brown stripes along back and under
- Dark tail

RANGE/HABITAT –

- Eastern North America and Southern Canada
- Deciduous woods and urban parks
- Prefer places with rocky areas and shrub cover

DIET –

- Omnivorous
- Bulbs, seeds, fruits, butts, green plants, mushrooms
- Insects, worms, bird eggs, smaller mammals

FACTS -

- Chipmunks transport food in their cheek pouches
- Chipmunks will construct underground nests with tunnels containing several entrances
- Chipmunks will hide their burrows with dirt, leaves, rocks, sticks, etc. to avoid predation