



EASTERN GRAY SQUIRREL

Sciurus carolinensis



The gray squirrel is a member of the rodent family and has very sharp toes that allow them to cling upside down to the trunks of trees. Gray squirrels are usually gray in color and have long bushy tails that make up half of their total body length. The gray squirrel can also be black in color. The tails serve a variety of purposes, such as an umbrella, blanket, parachute, and sun visor. Gray squirrels make their homes in trees in forests or in urban parks. They feed on a variety of foods, including seeds, nuts, fruits, and insects. Natural predators of the gray squirrel include foxes, owls, and bobcats.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

Gray squirrels average between 9 and 10 inches in length.

WEIGHT

Gray squirrels rarely reach weights of more than a pound and a half.

FOOD HABITS

Gray squirrels are omnivores. They eat nuts, birdseed, fruit, tree bark, baby birds, bird eggs, insects, and small mammals.

HABITAT

Gray squirrels can be found in both forests and residential areas. They also like bird feeders.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Gray squirrels are found throughout most of the eastern part of the United States and into Canada.

FUN FACT

Gray squirrels have been known to swim across shallow rivers and creeks.