



RED SQUIRREL

Tamiasciurus hudsonicus



Although this species is called the red squirrel, fur color actually varies geographically from red to gray to brown. During the summer a black stripe runs along the length of the side, separating the back and the cream-colored belly. Red squirrels are highly active, territorial animals. They build dens in old woodpecker holes, hollows in trees, and other crevices. Red squirrels are heavily reliant on seeds of conifers. They may eat up to 2/3 of the pine seed crop in an area each year. They store many seeds and nuts underground, in piles, or under rocks for the winter. They will migrate if their local food supply runs low.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

Red squirrels average between 11 and 13 inches in length, including the tail.

WEIGHT

Red squirrels weigh between 5 and 8 ounces.

FOOD HABITS

Red squirrels primarily eat the seeds of conifer trees. However, they are omnivores in general, and they will eat fruit, nuts, bark, buds, reptiles, insects, tree sap, fungi, eggs, young birds, and mice.

HABITAT

Red squirrels are found in coniferous, deciduous, and mixed forests.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Red squirrels are found throughout Canada and the northeastern United States. Their range also extends into the Rocky Mountains.

FUN FACT

In the northern parts of their range, red squirrels spend the winter in a system of underground tunnels.