

SQUIRREL IDENTIFICATION

RED SQUIRREL *Sciurus vulgaris*



Both red and grey squirrels leave distinctive feeding signs, e.g. nibbled pinecones or split hazelnuts. They build dreys which are ball-shaped nests made of twigs and lined with grass and moss. They can also nest in tree holes but neither hibernate!

IDENTIFICATION

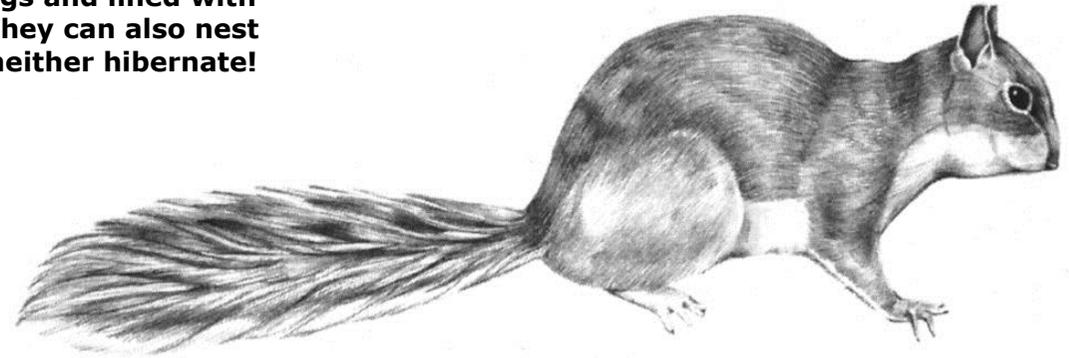
Head to body length: 18-24 cm and average tail length: 18 cm

- Fur is generally a uniform reddish-brown with pale underside, though can vary from almost black to chestnut brown, including greyish areas
- Prominent ear tufts in winter
- Tail is all one colour or various shades of brown but may gradually bleach to almost white in summer

HABITAT & HABITS

- Mainly found in coniferous woods, but may also be in deciduous woodlands
- Red squirrels are true tree squirrels and spend over 70% of their time in trees
- It can travel very fast through the trees by jumping long distances and it also swims
- It is more timid and cautious than the grey squirrel
- It makes a chattering sound

GREY SQUIRREL *Sciurus carolinensis*



IDENTIFICATION

Head to body length: 24-28 cm and average tail length: 22 cm

- Fur is predominantly grey with pale underside, though some reddish-brown areas on head, back, flanks and legs, especially in summer. These, however, are never very striking!
- Never have ear tufts!
- Tail is proportionally shorter than red squirrels and is always fringed white

HABITAT & HABITS

- Mainly found in deciduous woods, but may be found in conifer woods
- Grey squirrels spend most of their time on the ground foraging for food
- It runs faster than the red squirrel on the ground, though it is slower when it moves through the branches of the trees
- It is much bigger and bolder than the red squirrel
- Its voice is hoarse, rapid and rasping