

SOUTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL

Glaucomys volkans



HABITAT

Southern flying squirrels prefer mixed forests of **coniferous** (trees that produce cones) and **deciduous** trees (trees which lose their leaves every fall). They are **nocturnal** creatures (active at night) and rest in tree cavities during the day.



DIET



Southern flying squirrels are **omnivorous** (they eat both plants and animals). Some of their favorite foods are nuts, acorns, seeds, berries, fruit, bark, insects, fungi, and lichen. Speaking of food, flying squirrels need to watch out not to *become* the food of foxes, weasels, owls, large hawks, and house cats!

ADAPTATIONS

Flying squirrels have a flap of skin between their front and back legs, called a **patagium**, which allows them to glide from tree to tree. The bottom of their tail is flat to help them steer. These critters also have very large eyes that help them see in the dark.



FUN FACTS



Keep an eye out for piles of gnawed hickory nuts at the base of large hickory trees to see if flying squirrels may be in your area. One individual squirrel can save up to 15,000 nuts during a season!

The University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point
Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society



Project WildLIVE