

EASTERN GRAY SQUIRREL

Sciurus carolinensis



HABITAT

Gray squirrels like **mixed hardwood forests** (forests with trees that drop their leaves in the winter). Squirrels make nests, called **dreys**, using twigs, leaves, moss, and other natural objects. Look for them at the top of large trees!



DIET

Squirrels are **omnivores** (they eat both plants and animals). Their favorite foods include: acorns, seeds, nuts, berries, tree buds, insects, bird eggs, and amphibians. In the fall, gray squirrels store seeds and nuts to eat during the winter, which they locate with their great sense of smell.

BEHAVIOR

These critters are active throughout the year and are mostly seen during the day. You may observe their communication mannerisms, such as tail flicking or sounding loud warning calls to alert others of a predator, such as a red-tailed hawk.



FUN FACTS

Squirrels are tree planters! The seeds and nuts that squirrels bury in the fall are not all collected and eaten; many of these seeds sprout and become new trees. Eastern gray squirrels are not always gray. Sometimes they can be black, called **melanistic**, or white, called **albinistic**.

