

# Chipmunk



GARDEN EARTH  
NATURALIST  
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

# EASTERN CHIPMUNK

*Tamias striatus*

## IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ 5 - 6 inches long
- ◆ reddish-brown body with five distinguishing black stripes running down the back
- ◆ white belly and dark bushy tail
- ◆ white stripes on face



### Where To Look

Chipmunks can be seen in forests, forest edges, and gardens. They are most often seen on the ground foraging for food, or darting into one of their underground tunnels.



### Tracks and Other Signs

Chipmunks are often heard before they are seen. They make a loud chuck-chuck-chuck sound when alarmed or disturbed.



### Winter Adaptations

When winter weather gets extremely cold chipmunks will become inactive and retreat to their underground nests.



### What It Eats

Chipmunks eat acorns, nuts, seeds, berries, and many insects such as grasshoppers, beetles, and cicadas.



### Predators and Other Dangers

Chipmunks are preyed upon by foxes, hawks, owls, raccoons, snakes, and cats.



### Did You Know...

As chipmunks search for food they cram it into pouches in their cheeks and then take it back to their underground nests to eat or store for the winter months. Chipmunks help plants by spreading seeds. Sometimes they bury food in shallow holes and when they forget about these stashes, the seeds can grow into trees.