

# Squirrel



GARDEN EARTH  
NATURALIST  
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

# EASTERN GRAY SQUIRREL

*Sciurus carolinensis*

## IDENTIFICATION CLUES



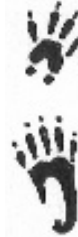
- ◆ head and body 8-10 inches; tail 8-10 inches
- ◆ tail gray and very bushy with white-tipped hairs
- ◆ gray with a pale belly



### Where To Look

Squirrels are one of the most common mammals in Georgia. They can be seen scampering through the trees of forests, parks and backyards. They prefer deciduous trees like oak, hickory and sweetgum. They are also frequent visitors to bird feeders.

### Tracks and Other Signs



In Winter, when the trees have lost their leaves, squirrels' nests made of leaves and bark become very apparent high up in the crotches of trees.



### Winter Adaptations

As winter approaches squirrels will bury and stash food. In winter, they use their incredible sense of smell to search out their "secret" stashes.



### What It Eats

Squirrels feast on many different kinds of foods including, nuts, seeds, fruits, fungi, insects, bird eggs, frogs, and toads.



### Predators and Other Dangers

Squirrels are preyed upon by foxes, raccoons, owls, and snakes. Humans are another predator as many fall prey to cars and hunters.



### Did You Know...

The squirrels greatest asset is its tail. They use it for balance, for shade in warm months, warmth in cold months, as an umbrella during rainshowers, and as a rudder when swimming- squirrels are great swimmers!