



# SQUIRREL IDENTIFICATION

**RED SQUIRREL**  
*Sciurus vulgaris*



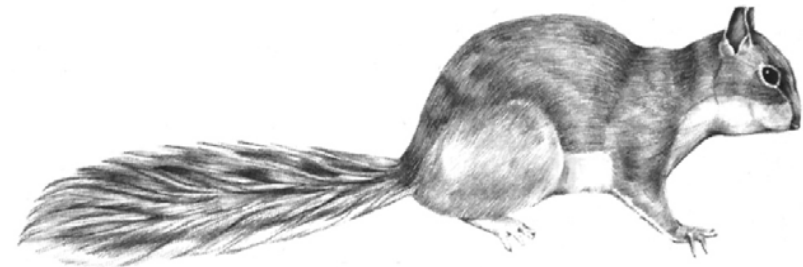
## IDENTIFICATION

Mostly reddish-brown (body length 195-280mm), with pale underside and a long bushy tail (longer than half the length of body + head: 140-240mm) and more pointed muzzle than the Grey Squirrel. Moults in the autumn, and ears in winter grow a conspicuous tuft, while the tail may gradually bleach to almost white in summer.

## HABITAT & HABITS

Prefers coniferous woods, but may also be in deciduous woods, where it prefers rather young and dense cover. It can travel very fast through the trees by jumping long distances. It also swims. The nest is ball-shaped, made of bare sticks and lined with grass and moss. It makes a chattering sound and does not hibernate.

**GREY SQUIRREL**  
*Sciurus carolinensis*



## IDENTIFICATION

Predominantly grey, though with some reddish areas. These, however, are never very striking. Larger than the Red Squirrel (245-300mm) but tail is proportionally shorter (195-250mm). The fur is redder in summer than in winter and it has distinct brown stripes on the flanks, but ears lack tufts even in winter.

## HABITAT & HABITS

Prefers deciduous woods, but may be found in conifers. Often seen on the ground, where it runs faster than the Red Squirrel, though it is slower when it moves through the branches of the trees. Much bolder than the Red Squirrel. Nests in tree holes, although it may also build an untidy nest (drey) of base twigs in the fork of the tree. Voice is hoarse, rapid and rasping. Does not hibernate. Was introduced at the turn of the century from North America and is spreading rapidly.