

Chapter 1 : Where Do Gray Squirrels Live? - Colonial Pest Control

The squirrel family includes ground squirrels, chipmunks, marmots, prairie dogs, and flying squirrels, but to most people "squirrel" refers to the species of tree squirrels, which belong to 22 genera of the subfamily Sciurinae.

Squirrels Several species of squirrels make their home in Texas, but the one with the widest distribution is the fox squirrel. It prefers an open, parklike woods where large mature trees shade the forest floor and prevent the under-brush from flourishing, but it can adapt to a variety of forest habitats. It is most abundant in the eastern third of the state, and distribution in the wild is about one squirrel for every two or three acres. It is not uncommon for squirrels to share winter food supplies. The gray squirrel is smaller and faster than the fox squirrel, and its agility and skittishness have given it a second name "cat squirrel." Acorns are the most important fall and winter food for the fox squirrel. The nuts provide needed energy but are low in protein. Squirrels start eating hickory and other nuts in the dough stage while the nuts are still developing and continue eating them as they mature, burying them until the supply is gone. During the spring and summer the squirrels also eat insects, buds, green shoots, fruits, and seeds. The fruits provide energy and the insects and seeds provide the necessary protein. Mushrooms are another favorite food when available. The squirrels do most of their feeding in the early morning and late in the day. An adult fox squirrel weighs less than two pounds and averages about twenty inches long from the tip of its nose to the tip of its tail. The tail, which is usually less than half of its total length, is a cinnamon color mixed with black. Its body fur is a brownish-gray above with reddish-yellow underparts. When an intruder comes near, the fox squirrel usually hides rather than runs. If the intruder starts moving around the tree, the fox squirrel also shifts its position so a limb or the whole tree remains between itself and any possible danger. Fox squirrels do most of their feeding in the early morning and late in the day. Older females usually breed twice a year January-February and again in May-June, but the younger females breed only once. Hollow trees are preferred den sites and nurseries, but if none is available the fox squirrel will build an outside nest from twigs and leaves cut from the tree. This ball-like nest structure will be twelve to twenty inches in diameter, surrounding an inner cavity six to eight inches across. Two to four helpless young are born six or seven weeks after breeding takes place. They are blind and nearly naked and develop slowly. Their eyes open at five weeks, but they do not climb out of the nest for at least seven or eight weeks. They do not get out of their nest tree until they are about ten weeks old. By the time they are three months old, they can fend for themselves. At ten or eleven months they reach sexual maturity, and the cycle can begin again. About 90 percent of the squirrels in East Texas are another species, gray squirrels. They are similar to the fox squirrel in many ways, but in other ways they are quite different. The gray squirrel is more sociable than the fox squirrel, and it is more likely to be found in groups. It is smaller "about a pound in weight and only seventeen inches long from nose tip to tail tip. It is faster, and its agility and nervousness have given it a second name "cat squirrel." It is skittish and runs when frightened, leaping from limb to limb and branch to branch. It also checks on its surroundings more often than the fox squirrel does. Like other squirrels, it has large eyes set on the sides of its head that allow it to see all around with little movement of its head. It can see above and below, an adaptation well suited for life in the trees where danger can come from the ground, through the air, or along a nearby limb. Squirrels also have a yellow filter in their eye lenses to help reduce glare and enhance contrast in low-light conditions to improve vision. Choice areas for gray squirrels include the swamplike growths of trees and plants along streams and the dense bottomland forests with their nightmare of tangled second-growth hardwood, vines, and other plants. Few gray squirrels are found in the more open upland forests preferred by the fox squirrel. Like the fox squirrel, gray squirrels build outside leaf nests, usually with two openings, when hollow tree dens are not available. They breed throughout the year, but breeding peaks occur in July-September and December-February. They remain in the nest for about six weeks and in family groups for a month or so after they begin foraging for themselves. By the time they are six months old, they are almost adult size, and they are ready to produce young of their own when they are a year old. Fox and gray squirrels have always been popular game animals to test the skill of the woodsman. At one time they were so much a part of the rural menu that they were known as "limb chickens. Most claim the gray

squirrel tastes better and is more tender than the fox squirrel. Rugged areas such as cliffs, canyon walls, boulder piles, and highway fills are good habitat for the rock squirrel. Another tree squirrel, but one that is not hunted, is the little flying squirrel. Although it is common in the eastern part of the state, it is nocturnal active at night and seldom seen during the day. Perhaps this is just as well since the flying squirrel is quite timid and, if cornered, may become paralyzed with fear and die of shock. Its name is a bit misleading since it cannot fly; however, it does glide. In fact, gliding is its main form of transportation, and it may cover as much as feet during a single glide. It is only eight to ten inches long and its tail, which serves as a rudder to guide it in flight, is at least half of its total length. Its body is covered with about a hundred square inches of skin that forms wing-like side flaps that stretch between its "ankle" and "wrist" and give it some fifty square inches of airfoil surface. Before launching itself, it climbs to a high point in a tree, using its sharp claws and strong legs. Just before it leaps, it moves its body back and forth to determine the range, draws its feet together, coils into a ball, and then springs, spread-eagle, into the air. By varying the slack in the skin along its sides, it is able to turn and bank as it glides through the trees from its launch site. Large eyes help it to see obstructions. Its fluffy, flattened tail is used as a brake to slow it down before it lands feet first on its target. As soon as it lands, it darts to the other side of the tree to avoid predators, such as an owl, cat, or raccoon, that might have been watching its flight. If danger threatens and the flying squirrel has to leap without making a flight plan, the landing may be less than perfect. If it lands in water, the flaps of skin so helpful in the air become a handicap. It cannot swim and probably will drown. The flying squirrel is always on the move when awake and burns energy at a terrific rate. As they are for most squirrels, nuts are an important part of its diet, and the flying squirrel stores them in a tree cache. It also eats berries, tender buds, grasshoppers, moths, bugs, acorn grubs, and other such items. It eats very little green vegetation. However, if no cavity is available, it will build a nest of leaves and twigs. In those areas where Spanish moss is available, a ball of it may contain and conceal such a nest. The young are born from March to May in litters of three to six, about forty days after breeding takes place. They are about the size of a quarter at birth and weigh less than half an ounce. Flight training begins when they are a few weeks old, and in a short time they are gliding through the trees. The flying squirrel matures slowly and will not be ready to breed for more than a year. For a look at the last squirrel being featured, we must move out of the East Texas tree tops and down to the ground in the Hill Country and West Texas, where the rock squirrel lives. Biologists tell us there are three subspecies of rock squirrels, which can be distinguished mainly by color and location. The Hill Country rock squirrels are a beautiful black color on the head and shoulders, fading to a salt-and-pepper shade on the hind quarters. The West Texas species is a lighter gray or beige, and the Big Bend species is dark over its entire body. Rock squirrels are almost always found in rocky areas, such as cliffs, canyon walls, boulder piles, highway fills, and other rugged terrain. Observers have seen them climb what appear to be smooth walls with speed and agility. Closer inspection of these walls reveals cracks and irregularities that provide footholds for the squirrels. Although considered a ground-dweller, the rock squirrel can climb trees almost as well as a tree squirrel. It is not unusual to see one sitting in the top of a juniper feeding on the berries or in mesquite trees eating the buds or beans. Occasionally a rock squirrel will make its den in a tree hollow, but most of the time it lives in an under-ground burrow. The entrance is usually located under a rock or in a crevice to conceal it from predators. Hill Country rock squirrels have found that the rock fences and stone walls built by early settlers in that area meet their living requirements perfectly. These walls serve as lookout posts, elevated runways, and covers for burrows. Rocky cliff sides also offer protection from enemies, which include hawks and other birds of prey, foxes, raccoons, bobcats, coyotes, dogs, snakes, and humans. They provide ready-made den sites and crevices for storing nuts, seeds, and berries for winter. The larger adults may spend a couple of months during the winter sleeping in their burrows. Since they occasionally are seen above ground on mild winter days, either they do not go into full hibernation in Texas or their periods of hibernation are interrupted. In preparation for their time under ground, they build up a layer of body fat and store food in the burrows or bury it close by. The story is told of a farmer who had two rock squirrels living under his tool shed. In the fall he stored forty pumpkins, weighing about ten pounds each, in a barn nearby. A month later when he went to get one of the pumpkins, he discovered that the two rock squirrels had managed to hollow out every single one of them. The squirrels had

eaten the pumpkin meat and stored the seeds beneath the floor of the tool shed to eat later. Young squirrels enter their winter burrows later than the adults, if at all. Many remain active throughout the winter because they are too small to build up enough fat to supply the energy needed for a long sleeping period. In late January and early February the adults begin emerging from their burrows for an hour or so each day to sun and feed. Rock squirrels eat a variety of plants, such as small herbs, flowers, leaves, seeds, nuts, and fruit, as well as grasshoppers and other insects.

Chapter 2 : Pine squirrels love, love, love their pines! | Welcome Wildlife

Squirrels are fascinating to observe with their tiny paws and big bushy tails. Homeowners, however, often consider them pests. In addition to munching on a tree's nuts and bark, squirrels also.

June 27, Cooper Digital Shutterstock Squirrels are nimble, bushy-tailed rodents found all over the world. They belong to the Sciuridae family, which includes prairie dogs, chipmunks and marmots. There are more than species of squirrels, according to the Integrated Taxonomic Information System ITIS , and they are categorized into three types: Size Since there are so many types of squirrels, they range greatly in size. The smallest squirrel is the African pygmy squirrel. It grows to 2. It grows to 36 inches 1 meter long and weighs up to 4 pounds 1. American red squirrels feed on the seeds of evergreen trees. Barb Thomas Grey squirrels, commonly found in North America, are medium-size squirrels. They grow to 15 to 20 inches They typically weigh about 1 to 1. A group of squirrels are called a scurry or dray. They are very territorial and will fight to the death to defend their area. Mother squirrels are the most vicious when defending their babies. Some squirrels are crepuscular. This means that they are only active at dawn and dusk. Where do squirrels live? Tree squirrels typically live in wooded areas, since they prefer to live in trees. Ground squirrels live up to their names. They dig burrows, a system of tunnels underground, to live in. Some squirrels also hibernate in burrows during the winter to keep warm. Albino squirrels are quite popular in some parts of the United States. The township of Kenton, Tenn. Andrea Browning Flying squirrels make their homes in tree holes or nests that are built into the crooks of branches. To get from tree to tree or from a tree to the ground, flying squirrels spread the muscle membrane between their legs and body and glide on the air. They can glide up to feet 48 m , making it look like they can fly. Squirrels are omnivores, which means they like to eat plants and meat. What do squirrels eat? To prepare for cold months, squirrels will bury their food. In the winter months they have a store of food they can eat when supplies are scarce. Mothers give birth to two to eight offspring at one time. Babies are called kits or kittens and are born blind. They depend on their mothers for around two or three months. A boost of stress during pregnancy helps red squirrels ensure that their pups will grow fast. Photo by Ryan W. Taylor After seven to eight weeks, the young are weaned. Some species of squirrel have new litters every few months or as little as twice per year.

Chapter 3 : Tree Squirrels - Facts & Behavior Information

Tree squirrels typically live in wooded areas, since they prefer to live in trees. Ground squirrels live up to their names. They dig burrows, a system of tunnels underground, to live in.

They easily adapt to humans and therefore live in developed areas. They spend much of their time scurrying around looking for food. Squirrels are arboreal, which means they usually make their homes in trees. Sometimes however, squirrels may damage trees by chewing on its bark and often times, squirrels use trees as a means to get into a house to nest, primarily in the attic. Whatever the reason, there are several approaches to getting rid of squirrels in trees. Step 1 Install a 12 to 18 inch wide piece of sheet metal on the tree trunk about four feet above the ground. Attach the sheet metal to itself, not the tree. Also, do the same for any surrounding trees that give the squirrels access to the tree you are concerned about. You can also trim the branches of surrounding trees to cut off access. However, if the tree is near a house, power lines, or any other structure that give the squirrels access to the tree, this method will not work. Step 2 Use moth balls. Place several moth balls in nylon stockings and hang about a foot down off the branches throughout the tree. If it a fruit tree, hang several near the heavy clusters of fruit. Since moth balls are toxic, be sure to use caution and never leave them in reach of children or pets. Step 3 Use Ro-Pel. This product is non-toxic and designed to get rid of rodents due to its bitter nature. It comes in a spray form and is safe on trees. Follow the directions and all precautions on the label to apply to your tree. Step 4 Set up a trap. You may need a permit to trap a squirrel so contact your local animal control to find out. Generally, a five by eighteen inch trap will suffice. Open the trap and place peanut butter on the trip lever. Follow manufacture instructions for setting the spring loaded door, which usually involves just locking two pieces of metal together that will snap apart to close the door when the lever is pushed.

Chapter 4 : Squirrels: Diet, Habits & Other Facts

Sometimes however, squirrels may damage trees by chewing on its bark and often times, squirrels use trees as a means to get into a house to nest, primarily in the attic. Whatever the reason, there are several approaches to getting rid of squirrels in trees.

Bark chewed off a branch by the eastern fox squirrel There are four species of tree squirrels in California excluding the small nocturnal flying squirrel, which is not considered a pest. Of the four species, two are native and two are introduced from the eastern part of the United States. In their natural habitats they eat a variety of foods, including a wide range of seeds such as pine nuts and acorns, fungi, insects, bird eggs, and young birds. Squirrels can cause damage around homes and gardens, where they feed on a variety of fruits, nuts, and other crops and plants. They can also dig holes in garden soil or in turf, where they bury nuts, acorns, or other seeds. They can be a nuisance around structures by gnawing on telephone cables, chewing their way into wooden buildings, or invading attics. Tree squirrels carry certain diseases that are transmissible to people, and they are frequently infested with fleas, mites, and other ectoparasites. Tree squirrels are easily distinguished from ground squirrels and chipmunks by their long bushy tails, their lack of markings such as spots or stripes, and the fact that they escape by climbing trees and other structures. All are chiefly arboreal, although the fox and western gray squirrels spend considerable time foraging on the ground. Tree squirrels do not hibernate and are active year-round. They are most active in early morning and late afternoon.

Eastern fox squirrels *Sciurus niger* Eastern fox squirrels were introduced from the eastern part of the United States and are well established in most major cities of California. Some people enjoy seeing them and have introduced them into new territories. They are often observed in agricultural lands around these same cities. They are also established in areas of Calaveras, Sacramento, and San Joaquin counties and may be expanding their range.

Western gray squirrels *Sciurus griseus* Native western gray squirrels are found throughout much of California, primarily in oak woodlands of the foothills and valleys and in pine-oak forests, where they feed on a variety of seeds, fungi, and other plant materials.

Douglas squirrels *Tamiasciurus douglasii* Native Douglas squirrels, sometimes called chickarees, are found in mostly conifer-forested regions of the north coastal area and along the Sierra Nevada mountain region. Because of the habitat in which they thrive, Douglas squirrels are not usually large-scale pests. They may, however, become garden or home pests in some of the more remote rural areas.

LIFE CYCLE Tree squirrels naturally nest in tree cavities, enlarged woodpecker holes, or high in a tree in a spherical nest they construct of twigs, leaves, and shredded bark. Breeding occurs in the late winter or in the spring and, depending on the species of tree squirrel, produces one or two litters per year of three to five young. For those producing two litters, the breeding period is extended.

DAMAGE Of the four tree squirrels, the eastern fox squirrel sometimes called the red squirrel is by far the most serious pest to homes and gardens in urban and suburban situations. In some cities, eastern fox squirrels have moved outward into agricultural land where they have become a pest of commercial crops. Squirrels sometimes cause damage around homes and gardens, where they feed on immature and mature almonds, English and black walnuts, oranges, avocados, apples, apricots, and a variety of other plants. During ground foraging they may feed on strawberries, tomatoes, corn, and other crops. They also have a habit, mostly in the fall, of digging holes in garden soil or in turf where they bury nuts, acorns, or other seeds. This caching of food, which they may or may not ever retrieve, raises havoc in the garden and tears up a well-groomed lawn. Squirrels sometimes gnaw on telephone cables and may chew their way into wooden buildings or invade attics through gaps or broken vent screens. They also have a tendency to strip bark to feed on the juicy inner bark layer cambium, causing injury to trees. Tree squirrels carry certain diseases such as tularemia and ringworm that are transmissible to people. They are frequently infested with fleas, mites, and other ectoparasites. However, two exceptions exist for lethal removal of tree squirrels: Eastern fox squirrels Eastern fox squirrels found to be injuring growing crops or other property may be controlled at any time and in any legal manner by the owner or tenant of the premises without a permit. Gray squirrels Any owner or tenant of land or property that is being damaged or destroyed, or is in danger of being damaged or destroyed by gray squirrels, may apply to the California

Department of Fish and Wildlife CDFW for a permit to control such squirrels. The Department, upon receipt of satisfactory evidence of actual or immediately threatened damage or destruction, may issue a revocable permit for the removal and disposition of such squirrels. When a permit to trap the gray squirrel is issued, the Department may designate the type of trap to be used, and may also require that squirrels be released in parks or other nonagricultural areas. It is not legal to use poison baits to kill any tree squirrel species. Releasing any tree squirrel elsewhere is also illegal unless a proper permit is issued by CDFW.

MANAGEMENT In urban and suburban areas, tree squirrels are difficult to control because of their great mobility, and because many people feed and provide nest boxes for the squirrels in order to encourage their presence. It is relatively easy to keep squirrels out of buildings, but keeping them out of a yard or garden is a continuous challenge. Monitoring The detection of tree squirrels is fairly easy because they are active during daylight hours and are highly visible. If tree squirrels visit your garden or yard on a regular basis, it is likely that damage will occur at certain stages of crop development, particularly with fruit and nut crops. If squirrels are seen in your trees, some kind of preventive action should be taken; squirrels can strip a tree of its crop in a short time.

Habitat Modification Trees that overhang roofs or are close to telephone lines should be cut back to slow the movement of squirrels about the yard. Anything that can be done to make a garden less attractive to squirrels is helpful. Exclusion Screening or blocking all potential entrance sites such as small gaps under the eaves, overlapping roof sections, and knotholes, can prevent tree squirrel access to buildings. Because they often travel on overhead telephone lines, power lines, and fence tops, they frequently find entrances at about these heights. When even a small opening is found, they can enlarge it by gnawing. In the absence of an obvious entrance, they can gnaw and create an entrance into an attic. When closing entry routes, be sure there is not an animal inside the building. One way to test whether any squirrels are remaining is to plug the entrance with a loose wad of newspaper; if any remain inside they will remove the plug to get out. It is virtually impossible to keep squirrels out of fruit or nut trees because of their superb climbing and jumping ability. Sometimes if there are other unprotected fruit or nut trees available to the squirrels, you can protect the crop of a single tree by netting it as you would to exclude foraging birds. While squirrels can readily gnaw through the plastic netting, they may not persist if enough alternative food is easily available. Squirrels can be discouraged from digging up newly seeded or established crops by covering the rows with cage-like freestanding covers made of one-half inch hexagon chicken wire. If squirrels are present around bird feeders, they are usually able to raid them and steal the food. Numerous devices and methods are commercially available from specialty catalogs for physically excluding tree squirrels from feeders; some of these work better than others. Tree squirrels are amazingly clever and agile, so just about any feeder is susceptible. Trapping Several types of kill traps are useful for tree squirrel removal, but they must be set in a way that will not accidentally trap nontarget animals, including pets. This can be accomplished by placing the trap in a tree, on a rooftop, or inside a box or wire cage with entrances no larger than 3 inches in diameter. Remember, only eastern fox squirrels can be killed without a hunting license or permit. All-metal tunnel or tube-type traps are becoming more popular for killing eastern fox squirrels. The design of these traps affords good protection to larger nontarget animals, and the trapped animal remains partially out of sight. Several choker-type box traps are sold for removing tree squirrels. They look similar to those used for trapping pocket gophers except that the triggers are often reversed, so that the bait must be pulled to activate instead of pushed, as is the case with pocket gopher traps. In fact, a tree squirrel trap can be made by modifying certain wooden choker-type gopher traps. To modify a gopher trap, lengthen the trigger slot with a rattail file so the trigger can swing unhindered and the squirrel can pass beneath the unset trap. For a dual-trap assembly, place two box traps back-to-back and secure them to a board. Trees and rooftops are often good locations for placement. Locate and secure traps so that they cannot be easily dislodged. Anchor them with a wire or light chain so a predator cannot carry the trap and the captured animal away. Bait the traps but do not set them for several days to allow the squirrels to steal the bait and become accustomed to the trap. Once the bait is regularly eaten, set the traps, and rebait, tying the bait to the trigger with fine thread or string. Use rubber, latex, nitrile, or plastic gloves when handling dead squirrels. Place dead squirrels in a plastic bag and seal to confine any ectoparasites fleas, etc. The securely bagged carcasses can then be discarded in a garbage can. Sometimes ordinary rat snap-traps are suggested for tree

squirrels, but these are often not powerful enough to kill mature squirrels and are best not used. There are other kill traps available for squirrel-sized animals, but these are not always sold locally and may have to be ordered from a trapper supply firm. Live-catch cage traps are also available, but once caught the squirrel must be euthanized, presenting a problem for some. Remember, releasing any tree squirrel elsewhere is illegal unless a proper permit is issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife beforehand, and the issuance of such a permit is unlikely in most situations. Methods of euthanasia considered humane by the American Veterinary Medical Association include gassing with carbon dioxide and shooting. Drowning is not an approved method of euthanasia and is illegal in California. Considering this problem, live-catch traps are not recommended in many situations. A kill trap is usually the most effective way to thin out the population, though new squirrels will move in to fill the void. Trapping usually becomes an ongoing process, once the neighborhood is populated with tree squirrels. Other Control Methods Although some chemical repellents are registered for use to keep tree squirrels out of an area, their effectiveness is questionable. There are also repellents that are added to birdseed that are supposed to prevent squirrels from feeding on the seeds. However, these, too, have not shown to be effective. Tree squirrels quickly become habituated to frightening devices using visual or sound cues, and pay little attention to them after a couple of days. A number of these devices are on the market, but none have proven very effective. Where shooting is not prohibited and firearms can safely be used, the eastern fox squirrel can be taken killed at close range with a pellet gun. Check with local authorities to determine if this method is legal in your area. Tree squirrels are quick to escape when pursued by predators. Some dogs that have full run of the yard will keep squirrels at bay. Predators in urban and suburban areas generally have little effect on tree squirrel populations. Wildlife Pest Control around Gardens and Homes. Revised based on a previous version authored by T. For noncommercial purposes only, any Web site may link directly to this page.

Chapter 5 : Tree Squirrels Management Guidelines--UC IPM

Tree squirrels get their common name from the fact that they are found only in areas where there are trees. There are three representative species of tree squirrels: fox squirrels, gray squirrels and pine squirrels.

They bound around and look cute thanks to their fuzzy tails and adorable little button eyes. But what do we really know about squirrels? What can we learn about squirrels to help us understand them better? What other tools do we need as we try to coexist with them as people who also love to feed birds? Types of Squirrel Nests

There are two different types of squirrel nests that can be found in the trees surrounding your backyard: Tree cavity dens or leaf nests.

Tree Cavity Den – A tree cavity den is often first created by a woodpecker, abandoned by that bird and later claimed by a squirrel. Other tree cavity dens are created through the natural processes that can hollow out an old tree. These homes are squirrel favorites because they provide the best protection from rain, wind and snow.

Leaf Nests – These constructions are found at least 20 feet up in a tree. Leaf nests are usually tucked in the fork of a large tree branch, which adds stability. You can tell them apart from bird nests because they are noticeably larger than a typical bird nest.

How is a Squirrel Leaf Nest Constructed? Leaf nests are constructed from various twigs, leaves, moss and other material. To start, twigs are loosely woven together to make up the floor of the nest. Next, squirrels create more stability by packing damp leaves and moss on top of the twig platform to reinforce the structure. Then a spherical frame is woven around the base, which creates the outer shell. The final touches include stuffing in leaves, moss, twigs and sometimes even paper to build up the outer shell of the new home. The inner cavity of its leaf nest is about six to eight inches in diameter and lined with more material, usually shredded bark, grass and leaves. However, some squirrel species, including Gray Squirrels, can have nests that are much larger. Some nest cavities can span 2 feet wide!

Squirrel Vacation Homes Squirrels are constantly on the move, scurrying about from bird feeder to bird feeder and even from yard to yard.

A Squirrel Nest Timeline Squirrels usually nest by themselves. However, during the height of mating time, usually at the beginning of the calendar year, male and female squirrels will double up in a nest briefly for the purpose of mating. They may also share a nest to conserve body heat during the coldest stage of winter weather. Once spring arrives, the female squirrels turn their focus to nursing and raising their new litters. Young squirrels venture outside of the nest beginning around the six-week-old mark. After the mother squirrel teaches her brood the rules of survival, most young squirrels leave the nest for good around 10 to 12 weeks of age. Some get extended training and will stay with Mom until the second litter arrives in late summer, usually in August. Squirrel nest-building activity is often noticeable in June and July. The real squirrel nest construction boom happens during the fall. While many wild birds and animals are migrating to avoid the colder winter months, squirrels are busy collecting material and assembling strong, secure nests that can make it through a blustery winter. If they do get to the feeder, then you can also try to keep them from enjoying what they find! Avoid branches, poles and platforms that squirrels could use to reach a feeder. Try using a squirrel baffle or pole-mounted feeder for extra squirrel-proofing measures. Select the best type of squirrel resistant feeder – Weight activated squirrel resistant feeders are popular among bird lovers who have large numbers of squirrels visiting their yards. Also, investing in bird feeders that have a baffle or cage will limit squirrel access to bird seed. Change the taste – Look for seed that birds love but squirrels hate. Try a thistle feeder or switch to safflower seeds, both of which squirrels dislike. Monitor feeder activity – Monitor the bird feeders in your backyard not only for birds, but for squirrels and other unwanted backyard pests. Learn how squirrels and other critters are accessing your feeders and try to come up with a plan to stop them. With all that time, along with their keen intelligence, they are a difficult opponent to overcome. Even when you think a squirrel has been defeated, it may surprise you later on! As one of the most common creatures in towns, cities and suburbs, they provide a lot of benefits to our neighborhoods. In fact, for many people a squirrel is one of the few wild animals they see on a daily basis! By digging for food, squirrels aerate the soil, which promotes better vegetation growth. The nuts and seeds that they hide and forget are either eaten by other animals. Squirrels also eat insects, including tree-infesting beetles and grubs that damage lawns. Their unused nests, particularly those in tree cavities, are almost always

reused by other animals. Squirrels are an important food source for birds of prey. Did we mention squirrels are really cute? Your Squirrel Nests Take the time to look up today. How many squirrel nests can you see around your yard? Did you ever notice them before?

Chapter 6 : Squirrels in the Trees

The squirrels that do not find a tree are made to perform a silly dance before continuing onto the next round. You can add more to this game by having the trees and squirrels perform a group exercise upon the squirrels reaching a home.

Squirrels are small, fast and elusive. Others will chew through your attic walls. The possible problems that can result from squirrels are seemingly endless. You can be proactive and eliminate these nuisances so that you can return to your customary peace and quiet. Need to hire an exterminator? Get a free estimate online from top local home service pros in your area. Follow the advice outlined below to get rid of those pesky squirrels once and for all. An Overview of Squirrels Photo Credit: Moyan Brenn Squirrels belong to the Sciuridae family. This family consists of medium to small sized rodents. There are all sorts of squirrel types including tree squirrels, ground squirrels, red squirrels and flying squirrels. Most have very slender bodies with large eyes and furry tails. While they are cute to look at, they can wreak havoc on your home, yard, and garden. They make an incredible amount of noise and they chew and claw through just about anything. Their paws are so sharp and precise that they are often used to descend trees head-first. Squirrels live in every type of habitat but for the most frigid polar regions and the arid deserts. Their teeth are quite large and can penetrate the toughest nuts found in nature. Unfortunately, squirrels breed rather rapidly. They can breed up to two times per year and it only takes three to six weeks for them to give birth to numerous babies. While the majority of squirrels die in the first year of their lives, older squirrels can live upwards of 5 to 10 years. There have even been instances of squirrels surviving for 20 years in captivity. Some squirrels make noise by rolling nuts around. Others will create very annoying sounds as they scurry around the attic searching for insects, nesting materials or a warm spot. Some squirrels will chew away at your attic to create large entry holes. They are especially active during the day while other attic dwellers like mice, opossums, rats, and bats are nocturnal. While flying squirrels are a nocturnal type of squirrel, chances are your active nighttime pests are not squirrels. Since squirrels are quite small, they can find their way into attics more easily than most homeowners would imagine. They are superior climbers thanks to their light bodies and incredibly strong paws. They typically choose to live in an attic because it is convenient or because of its location in relation to their typical home space. Squirrels will produce annoying noises until you eliminate them. They can survive on insects and some will be savvy enough to enter and exit the home through tiny openings. Begin by inspecting your home. Look for possible entryways that squirrels might be using to access the attic. Perhaps you have a small entry hole that you had not noticed before. Oftentimes, there are opening in roof vents or eave gaps that are just large enough for a squirrel to fit through. Yet you have to use the right strategy and the proper trap. The market is flooded with all sorts of squirrel traps. There are lethal traps called body grip traps that resemble large rat traps. Leave them to the old school fur trapper crowd. They are far too difficult to use and there are more efficient solutions out there. Some use the single animal live cage traps. This trap is quite popular because it is simple and efficient. Squirrels are lured into these metal traps by food and they step into the trip pan at the rear of the cage. This closes the trap door and captures the squirrel. Some are too small for certain squirrels. Others are too large. If the trap is too large, the squirrel might bash against the walls in a panic and hurt itself. You should opt for a repeating live cage trap. It is commonly used by professionals because it works. It is placed on the main hole that squirrels use to enter and exit the home. You can nab up to half a dozen squirrels with a properly sized repeating live cage trap. It is also advisable to use a one way exclusion door trap. Some consider these to be the best traps to remove squirrels from attics. An exclusion door trap is similar to the repeater trap but it has one open end. It allows the squirrels to exit the attic through the one way door but not come back in. You can also use whole peanuts in the shell or oranges placed behind the trip pan. However, you should leave the main entryway open. Then set a one-way squirrel exclusion door on this main entryway. You can also use a repeater trap that will nab all of the squirrels in a single shot. The exclusion door is designed to let them out of the attic but bar them from re-entering. Now you can remove the trap and seal the main entryway hole shut with steel mesh. You should also take some time to clean your attic as the squirrels likely left nesting materials, feces and urine behind. It is worth noting that you can adopt a different

approach to trapping your squirrels. Some prefer to set a series of diminutive cage traps on the roof beneath the eaves. Kai Schreiber While trapping squirrels is illegal in most states, it is legal to kill a squirrel with a snap trap in almost every state. The states that permit trapping typically require that you kill and dispose of the squirrel on your property when it is captured. Consider whether you want to do this. However, you should inject a dose of common sense into your squirrel fighting tactics. Some types of squirrels are actually endangered. For example, in Olney, Illinois, those who trap or kill an albino squirrel might face criminal charges. Besides, squirrels are cute and they are just trying to survive. Be nice and let your squirrels loose far away from your home. Take a drive to an open area at least five miles away and let the squirrels out there. But the hunting of game animals requires a hunting license that must be acquired before the actual killing of the squirrels. No jurisdiction in North America allows for the poisoning of tree squirrels. There are actually no poisons registered for the killing of squirrels. When homeowners use rat poison to kill squirrels in their attics or other parts of the home, these squirrels usually crawl into very tight spaces before dying. Their corpses rot in these tough to reach areas and they are nearly impossible to remove without investing in a significant repair job. Yet homeowners can almost always legally kill a ground squirrel with poison. These are considered to be nuisances to the public as they often burrow right into water lines, gas lines, playground equipment, orchards and nut groves. A license for the poison is always required. Audrey Instead of waiting for squirrels to find their way into your home once again in the future, be proactive and take preventative measures. Take some time out every month to thoroughly inspect your home. Look for damage and rot by the roof line. Pay particular attention to any holes that you spot. Fix the problem now to prevent another infestation. Seal all of the holes. Staple it right to the plywood and then apply an animal repellent to the area. Take care to not leave trash outside of your home for long periods of time. Squirrels along with just about every other type of animal are attracted to trash, especially trash with food remnants. While the use of ammonia laden rags is cast off by many as a folk remedy, it actually works. Place these rags in strategic spaces along with commercial squirrel deterrents. Consider repellents with predator urine. This non-toxic remedy repels squirrels quite effectively. However, no preventative measure listed above will be enough in and of itself. They must be used in combination with one another throughout the year. Moyan Brenn While it might seem impossible to remove squirrels from your backyard, it can be done. Squirrels are not only annoying, they can be dangerous and hurt your finances. They even carry diseases.

Chapter 7 : How to Get Rid of Pesky Squirrels From Trees | Home Guides | SF Gate

Where does the Eastern Gray Squirrel Live? The Eastern Gray Squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis) is a tree squirrel that is native to the eastern and Midwestern United States and can also be found in parts of eastern Canada.

Tribe Protoxerini African tree squirrels Genus Epixerus African palm squirrels Genus Funisciurus rope squirrels Genus Myosciurus African pygmy squirrel Genus Paraxerus bush squirrels Genus Protoxerus African giant squirrels Relationship with humans[edit] Iron bird feeder advertised as being "squirrel-proof and bear-resistant" Squirrels are generally inquisitive and persistent animals. In residential neighborhoods, they are notorious for tenaciously trying to circumvent obstacles in order to eat from bird feeders. Although they are expert climbers, and primarily arboreal , some species of squirrels also thrive in urban environments, where they have adapted to humans. Nuisance wildlife management and Electrical disruptions caused by squirrels Squirrels are sometimes considered pests because of their propensity to chew on various edible and inedible objects, and their stubborn persistence in trying to get what they want. Their characteristic gnawing trait also aids in maintaining sharp teeth , and because their teeth grow continuously, prevents their over-growth. On occasion, squirrels will chew through plastic and even metal to get to food. Tree squirrels may bury food in the ground for later retrieval. Birds, especially crows , will sometimes watch a squirrel bury a nut, then dig it up as soon as the squirrel leaves. This may become an annoyance to gardeners with strict landscape requirements, especially when the garden contains edibles. Homeowners in areas with a heavy squirrel population must be vigilant in keeping attics, basements, and sheds carefully sealed to prevent property damage caused by nesting squirrels. Squirrels are a serious fire hazard when they break into buildings. They often treat exposed power cables as tree branches, and gnaw on the electrical insulation. The resulting exposed conductors can short out, causing a fire. For this reason alone, squirrel nests inside buildings cannot be safely ignored. A squirrel nest will also cause problems with noise, excreta , unpleasant odors, and eventual structural damage. It is hoped that this fur would indicate to nesting squirrels that a potential predator roams, and will encourage evacuation. Odoriferous repellents, including mothballs and ammonia , are generally ineffective in expelling squirrels from buildings. Once established in a nest, squirrels stubbornly ignore fake owls and scarecrows , along with bright flashing lights, loud noises, and ultrasonic or electromagnetic devices. However, squirrels must leave the nest to obtain food and water usually daily, except in bad weather , affording an opportunity to trap them or exclude them from re-entering. Poisoning squirrels can be problematic because of the risks to innocent parties,[clarification needed] and because the odor of a dead squirrel in an attic or wall cavity is very unpleasant and persistent. They can readily climb a power pole and crawl or run along a power cable. The animals will climb onto power transformers or capacitors looking for food, or a place to cache acorns. If they touch a high voltage conductor and a grounded portion of the enclosure at the same time, they are electrocuted , and often cause a short circuit that shuts down equipment. These losses include direct damage to property, repairs, lost revenue and public relations. While dollar costs of these losses are sometimes calculated for isolated incidents, there is no tracking system to determine the total extent of the losses. Motorists have caused serious accidents by attempting to swerve or stop to avoid a squirrel in the road. It provides a way for squirrels to cross a busy street safely. Tree squirrels are a common attraction of many urban parks. As urban wildlife[edit] Tree squirrels are a common type of urban wildlife. Squirrels living in parks and campuses in cities have learned that humans are typically a ready source of food. A commonly given food is peanuts , but recent studies show that raw peanuts contain a trypsin inhibitor that prevents the absorption of protein in the intestines. Therefore, offering peanuts that have been roasted is the better option. This type of deficiency has been found to cause metabolic bone disease , a somewhat common ailment found in malnourished squirrels. Although squirrel meat is low in fat content, unlike most game meat it has been found by the American Heart Association to be high in cholesterol. In in the northern New Jersey community of Ringwood , the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services issued a warning to anyone who eats squirrel especially for children and pregnant women to limit their consumption after a lead-contaminated squirrel was found near the Ringwood Mines Landfill. In western parts of the state, the doctors

found a greatly elevated human incidence of Creutzfeldtâ€”Jakob disease , a rarely seen but serious prion-based disorder that causes dementia and eventual death. So-called "mad squirrel disease" can be difficult to distinguish from the usual behavior of squirrels, but could be more prevalent among roadkilled animals. Some squirrel eaters have special rituals for preparing and eating the brain, while others avoid eating it altogether.

List of fictional squirrels In the Ramayana , an ancient Sanskrit epic poem , a squirrel assists in constructing a bridge from India to Sri Lanka to help Rama rescue his wife Sita. Anthropomorphic red squirrels were used in UK road safety campaigns between the s and s. Stories from This American Life. Albino and white squirrels[edit] Further information: Other impacts on human society inspired by white squirrels include the creation of organizations that seek to protect them from human predation , and the use of the white squirrel image as a cultural icon. Although these squirrels are commonly referred to as "albinos", most of them are likely non-albino squirrels that exhibit a rare white fur coloration known as leucism that is as a result of a recessive gene found within certain Eastern gray squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis* populations, and so technically they ought to be referred to as white squirrels, instead of albino. Users are encouraged to submit their sightings. Note the pink eyes. Note the non-pink eyes. Marionville, Missouri ; Brevard, North Carolina ; Exeter, Ontario ; and Kenton, Tennessee , each of which holds an annual white squirrel festival, among other things designed to promote their claim of "White Squirrel Capital". The University of Texas at Austin is home to a white squirrel population which has spurred the myth of the albino squirrel as a good luck charm. There are many versions of the tale; one of the more popular versions is if one spots the albino squirrel before an exam, they will ace it. Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan is home to frequently sighted white squirrels that live on and around the campus. In Kentucky, the University of Louisville has established its own chapter of the Albino Squirrel Preservation Society, which maintains contact with its members and interested parties through a Facebook group by that name. The university has an open policy to give away a free t-shirt to anyone who takes a photograph of a white squirrel on campus grounds and brings it to the administration offices. Michael Stokes, a biology professor at Western Kentucky University, commented that the probable cause for the abundance of white squirrels on university campuses was because they were originally introduced by someone: When you see them, especially around a college campus or parks, somebody brought them in because they thought it would be neat to have white squirrels around. Albert Meier, another biology professor at Western Kentucky University, added that: But on a college campus, they are less likely to be consumed by other animals. A decline of the red squirrel and the rise of the Eastern gray squirrel , an introduced species from North America, has been widely remarked upon in British popular culture. It is mostly regarded as the invading grays driving out the native red species. Special measures are in place to contain and remove any infiltration of gray squirrels into these areas. As the Eastern gray squirrel is regarded as vermin it is illegal to release any into the wild; any caught have to be humanely killed.

Chapter 8 : Tree squirrel - Wikipedia

Squirrels belong to the Sciuridae family. This family consists of medium to small sized rodents. There are all sorts of squirrel types including tree squirrels, ground squirrels, red squirrels and flying squirrels.

Feature stories , Featured slider , Mammals Raise your paw if you love pine trees! Pine squirrels sure do. They have distinct summer and winter coats. Conifer seeds, however, are their main diet. They have a distinctive way of eating pinecones – from the bottom up, rather than top down. In the fall, they bury pine cones to eat later on. They also sometimes store mushrooms in the fork of trees. The squirrels often use the same spot year after year where they peel scales off pine cones to get at the seeds. These refuse piles are called middens. Generations of squirrels may use one, with it growing several feet high and wide. In winter, they nest in tree cavities or in underground burrows. The squirrels are solitary, except during mating season, which is late-February to April. Babies are born about one month later. They inhabit conifer forests, but occasionally mixed forests, too. The females are receptive to mating for one day only, usually about February, and sometimes for one day in about August. On those single days, they often mate with several males. Four to five babies are born 35 to 40 days later. Juveniles have a high mortality in their first year. If they survive it, they may live up to 10 years. An isolated group of red squirrels in southeast Arizona is different enough to be considered a sub-species. Graham Pine Squirrel T. There are 24 more recognized red squirrel subspecies, with the main difference between them being where they live. This means that suitable live trees and snags are vital to their survival. Another difference is their jaw strength: They were under attack by vicious ants when researcher Melissa Merrick heard their intense cries. Army who served for some years in Mexico.

Chapter 9 : How to Catch a Squirrel: 11 Steps (with Pictures) - wikiHow

The Western gray squirrel (Sciurus griseus, Fig. 2) is the largest tree squirrel in Washington, ranging from 18 to 24 inches in length. It has gray upper parts, a creamy undercoat, and its tail is long and bushy with white edges.

The United States is home to five different types of squirrels; fox, gray, red, flying and ground. Some live in the trees, some live in the ground and others appear to fly. Tree squirrels generally have bushy tails, sharp claws and large ears, while ground squirrels have shorter legs and less bushy fur. Flying squirrels have a furred membrane between their wrists and ankles that allow them to glide between trees. Grey Squirrels Two species of gray squirrels inhabit the United States, the western gray and the eastern gray. The eastern gray squirrel normally inhabits the northeastern United States, although it has invaded the western United States, as well as Europe. The western gray squirrel lives in three separate locations along the western coast. Both of these large squirrels appear in a variety of colors, which include black, gray, brown, cream and red. Fox Squirrels Fox squirrel species live throughout most of the United States, excluding the eastern coast. It is the largest type of squirrel ranging from 17 to 27 inches long. These large squirrels come in two distinct color groups. One has dark fur in variable shades from black to gray and tan or gold undersides. These dark-colored squirrels have black heads with white noses, ears and feet. The other color is reddish, tan or orange. The red fox squirrels have no white markings. Red Squirrels Little red squirrels are about half the size of gray squirrels. These small tree squirrels have fur that is gray-red in the winter and orange-red in the summer with a white belly. During the winter months, red squirrels will grow tufts of fur on their ears. When other animals enter their territory, they tend to chatter or whistle loudly at such invaders. Red squirrels, also known as pine squirrels, live in the colder northern states and prefer living in pine forests. Ground Squirrels Many species of ground squirrels inhabit the United States. These small rodents prefer to excavate burrows in open habitats such as prairies. The white-tailed antelope squirrel of southwestern United States is the smallest species, weighing only 3. Some more common species include the California ground squirrel, the thirteen-lined ground squirrel, and the spotted ground squirrel. Due to destructive burrowing and chewing, these species can sometimes cause great damage to gardens. Flying Squirrels The United States is home to two species of flying squirrels, the northern flying squirrel and the southern flying squirrel. The northern flying squirrel is the larger of the two squirrel species. Usually, it lives in the higher elevations of Alaska, California, Arizona, Michigan and the Appalachian and Adirondack mountains. Southern flying squirrels are found in the eastern half of the United States in lower elevations down through Florida wild. These very small squirrels may outnumber gray squirrels, although their nocturnal living habits make them nearly impossible to find.