



Gray Squirrel

Eastern Gray Squirrel

(Sciurus carolinensis)

Instant ID

- A rat-sized rodent with a bushy tail
- Florida squirrels are 2/3 the size of those found further north
- Normally gray in color, yet can have orange and brown tints
- Feet swivel backwards for climbing down trees
- Some populations can be leucistic (white) like those at Ochlockonee River State Park

Native Niches

- Found in hardwood and mixed forests throughout Florida
- Native to the eastern United States and southeast Canada
- Common in urban and suburban settings





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Favorite Foods

- Eats hickory nuts, acorns, beech nuts and pecans
- Also eats tree buds, seeds, fruit and insects
- Buries nuts after carrying them to a new location

Critter Characteristics

- Use sense of smell to find about 85% of hidden nuts
- Build masses of leaves in trees for nests or resting platforms
- Multi-purpose tails are used for shade, warmth, communication and balance

Population Protection

- Feeding squirrels can lead to injury, for you and them
- Please do not feed the animals in Florida State Parks

