

RED SQUIRREL

Tamiasciurus hudsonicus

Status: Red squirrels are not endangered.

Habitat: forests

Range: North America

Diet in the wild: nuts, buds, bark, fruits, mushrooms, seeds; occasionally - mice, fledglings, eggs

Body length: 17-20 inches

Tail length: 8 - 9½ inches

Weight: 14-25 ounces

Special features:

- Most squirrels have long, bushy tails that help them keep their balance as they move through the trees.
- Squirrels often have several nests: one in a tree for warm weather, one in a tree trunk for winter, and an “alternative” weathertight tree nest.
- Squirrels are known for storing nuts and other food for the winter. They may hide their cache in one storage spot, or they may bury individual nuts.

Breeding & Care of Young:

- Squirrels usually mate in midwinter.
- Young are usually born in the spring after a gestation period of 45 days. A second litter may be born in late summer.
- Usually 2-4 young are born per litter.

Young are weaned at about 50 days of age.

