

GRAY SQUIRRELS

Common Name: gray squirrel

Other Names: none

Scientific Name: Sciurus caroliniensis

Appearance:

length	- about 18 inches, including 9 inch tail
weight	- between 1 and 1 1/2 lbs., adult
color	- commonly salt and pepper, grizzled with tan hairs in body coat and white belly

Range: - common statewide

Habitat:

- woodlands and urban areas, especially near oaks, hickories and other trees
- tree squirrel, often seen foraging on ground

Diet:

- nuts, seeds and berries
- occasionally vegetation, especially in spring
- occasionally bird eggs, nestling birds and insects

Reproduction:

- 2 to 4 young per litter
- generally 2 litters per year

Behavior:

- active during day
- natural shyness can disappear when fed

Problems:

- roosting in attics, crawl spaces, etc.; in homes
- eating fruit, vegetable and nut crops; digging in yard
- raiding bird feeders and other pet food
- damaging screens

Solutions:

- capture and removal using live traps baited with peanuts, pecans or sunflower seeds is recommended for problems with individual animals
- removing attractant (e.g., bird food) is effective when feasible
- repellents, scare devices and ultrasonics are not effective, although taste repellents may solve short-term chewing problems to non-edible objects
- lethal control, where legal

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Legal Aspects: - may be destroyed when damaging property, or during open hunting season