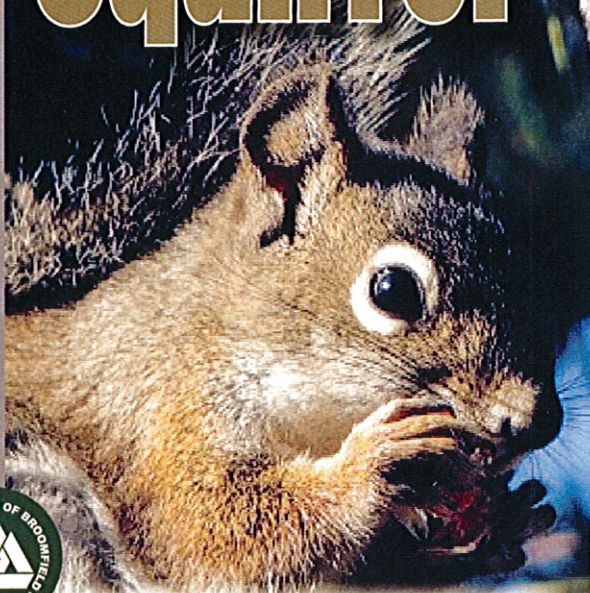


Squirrel



Three types of squirrels can be found in Colorado, the fox, Abert's and pine squirrel. Fox squirrels are the urban species and the largest of the squirrels. Below is information on the fox squirrel.

Habitat:

Areas with nut and seed producing plants. They live in places with trees.

Diet:

Mainly seeds but will eat insects, bird eggs, flowers, buds and bark.

Behavior:

Diurnal (active during the day) and non-territorial. Agile climbers and can jump 15' in horizontal leaps.

Nesting:

Fox squirrels use leaf nests or tree cavities for shelter and litter rearing. Leaf nests are built during the summer in forks of deciduous trees. Usually two litters of three a year.

Life Span:

Females up to 12.6 years, males 8.6 years. Predators include fox, red-tailed hawks, coyote, great horned owls, raccoons, and dogs.



Squirrel track

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Possible Conflicts:

Tree Squirrels may cause damage by chewing the bark of a tree, nipping twigs or eating cones. They may dig small holes in the yard to bury their food for the coming winter. They may run around on your roof or potentially gain access to your attic. They may invade your bird feeders and/or they may tease the family dog.

What to Do:

- Squirrel repellent such as the Hot Pepper Recipe (below) has proved effective when used along the squirrel's trail. Use the repellent along the top of a fence, on overhanging branches or the bark of a tree to deter them.
- Place metal cones up to six feet tall around tree trunks or bird feeders.
- Clean up around bird feeders and the use of cages around the feeders will make it harder for them to feed.
- Trim branches six to eight feet away from your roof. Check your soffits and roof regularly to ensure they have not gained access to the attic.

Hot Pepper Repellent Recipe:

- 1 chopped yellow onion
- 1 chopped jalapeno pepper
- 1 tablespoon Cayenne Pepper

Boil these ingredients in two quarts of water for 20 minutes. Strain out the chunky bits and it is ready to use.

- Squirrels need to chew on wood or other substances to keep their front teeth from growing too long. You may be able to ID squirrel damage by looking for two vertical drag marks in the damaged area.

For More Information:

Broomfield Wildlife Masters,
303-464-5554



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Wildlife Observation:

Look for wildlife. Remember to watch from a distance and don't get too close.

Listen for wildlife. Even if you can't see wildlife, you may hear them.

Learn about wildlife. Talk to a wildlife master or naturalist, borrow a book about wildlife.

Love and Respect the Outdoors!

The more we know about wildlife, the less likely we are to harm or fear wildlife.



City and County of Broomfield
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