

EASTERN CHIPMUNK

Tamias striatus

Order: Rodentia

Family: Sciuridae

FNAI Ranks: G5/S3

U.S. Status: none

FL Status: none



Description: A small squirrel (8.5 - 12 in. = 215 - 299 mm) with reddish-brown to gray dorsal fur and whitish underside. Flanks marked by two longitudinal black stripes separated by a white stripe. A fifth black stripe runs down the center of the back. Often has facial stripes above and below eyes. Tail is dark above and reddish-brown below and nearly as long as the body and head. Ears are rounded.

Similar Species: In our area could only be confused with gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), which does not have stripes and is approximately twice the size.

Habitat: Hardwood forests and mixed hardwood-pine forests generally with a moderately open understory, but with at least some shrub cover. In Florida, these habitats are generally associated with streams or rivers.

Seasonal Occurrence: Active year-round.

Florida Distribution: Northern portions of western Panhandle, generally along the Escambia, Blackwater, Yellow and Choctawhatchee rivers.

Range-wide Distribution: Eastern U.S. and southern Canada west to the eastern edge of the plains.

Conservation Status: At least one population is protected on Blackwater River State Forest. Populations appear to be stable.

Protection and Management: Conservation of upland hardwood forest should be encouraged. Educate the public, landowners, and land managers on the importance of upland hardwood forests.

References: Brown 1997, Hall 1981, Humphrey (ed.) 1992, Whitaker 1996.



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