**Description**
Squirrels are nimble, bushy-tailed rodents found all over the world. They belong to the Sciuridae family which includes prairie dogs, chipmunks and groundhogs.

**Adult Size**
- Weight: 0.5oz - 4lbs
- Size: 5 - 36"

**Diet**
Acorns, walnuts, sunflower seeds, birdseed, berries, fruits, and mushrooms.

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**Squirrels**

*Scientific name: Sciuridae*

*Type: Mammals*

*Order: Rodentia*

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**Two species of tree squirrels occur in Bolingbrook, Illinois:**

**Eastern Gray Squirrel** (*Sciurus Carolinensis*) and usually weighs 1¼ pounds. They are gray in color, however both all black (melanistic), and all white (albinistic) varieties can be found commonly in some parts of Illinois, as a result of naturally occurring genetic mutations.

**Fox Squirrel** (*Sciurus Niger*) is the largest tree squirrel in Illinois, weighing 1¾ to 2 pounds. Their fur is buff orange in color and they have fluffy tails, often developing large ear tufts in the winter.

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**Damage Prevention & Control Measures**
Squirrels are excellent climbers and jumpers. They are well known as unwelcome guests at birdfeeders. It will likely be necessary to use several techniques to control property damage by squirrels.

- To prevent squirrels from climbing on isolated trees or power poles, attach a two-foot wide metal collar around the tree or pole six feet off the ground. On trees, attach the metal collar with wires held together with springs to allow for growth.

- Regularly check buildings on the property for places that need repair. Repair holes and openings as soon as they are noticed, making sure not to trap animals inside. If holes are found, loosely stuff newspaper in the opening. If the paper has not been moved, it is safe to proceed with repairs. Try this for two or more days until none of the holes are being reopened.

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**Removal**
Sometimes a squirrel will chew its way into a house or garage. If this happens, it will be necessary to remove the animal before it damages insulation or wiring in the structure. Many times the squirrel will leave if windows and doors to the outside of the house are left open during the day and human activity inside the room(s) is limited. If squirrels are inside your home please contact the Bolingbrook Animal Control Department for assistance in removing the squirrel at 630-226-8500.