

NATURE *news* FOR kids

Wisconsin is home to 10 members of the **squirrel** family.

Northern **Flying** Squirrel

Southern Flying Squirrel

Gray Squirrel

Fox Squirrel

Red Squirrel

Eastern Chipmunk

Least Chipmunk

13-**Lined** Ground Squirrel

Franklin's **Ground** Squirrel

Woodchuck

*Look for the words in **bold** in the puzzle.



Wisconsin Squirrels

There are ten members of the family *Squiridae*, or squirrels, in Wisconsin. Most of us know the gray squirrel. It is found all over the state anywhere there are trees, especially trees like oaks that produce the nuts that they like to eat. The gray squirrel usually has a gray back and gray tail.

If you live in an area with pine trees you probably see the smaller red squirrel. Reds are more likely to chatter at you if you walk by them in the woods. The fur on their back is rusty red-orange color.

The fox squirrel is our largest squirrel that is typically found in the trees. Fox squirrels like orchard and park-like settings. Their fur is a mix of gray and red.

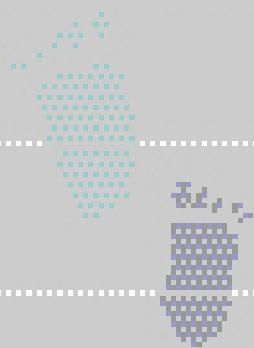
There are also two flying squirrels in Wisconsin, but they don't really fly. They have skin between their front and back legs that allows them to glide from tree to tree or tree to birdfeeder. There are two species (kinds) of chipmunks in Wisconsin. They are recognized by the stripes on their body and face. The least chipmunk is found only in the very northern part of Wisconsin. Often mistaken for chipmunks, 13-lined ground squirrels have stripes and spots along their body. They are found in tall grassy areas, where they are often seen standing straight up, watching for danger.

The largest member of the squirrel family in Wisconsin is the woodchuck. Woodchucks are also called ground hogs. Woodchucks dig burrows (homes) underground.

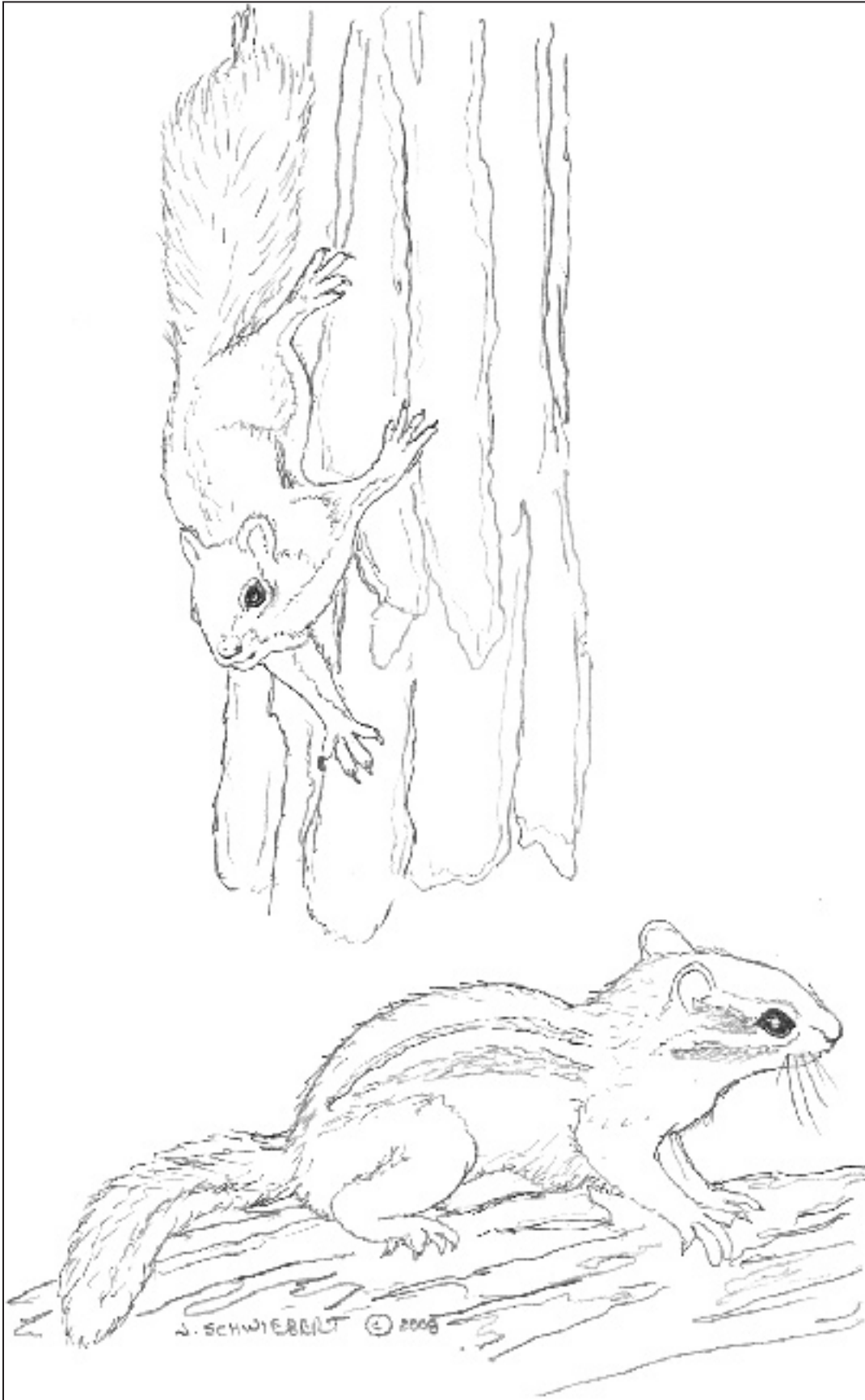
The squirrel that is hardest to find in Wisconsin is the Franklin's ground squirrel. Traditionally, it was found in the western and southwestern part of the state in the prairie habitats.

Whether hiking down a shady lane or enjoying the great outdoors in our own backyards, we all enjoy watching these busy and entertaining creatures.

C	E	N	L	O	X	S	R	K	U
H	A	T	I	H	L	Q	C	O	V
I	S	E	N	D	N	U	O	R	G
P	T	S	E	R	H	I	A	Y	N
M	E	Y	D	C	L	R	G	V	I
U	R	F	D	Y	S	R	X	C	Y
N	N	O	U	K	A	E	F	O	L
K	O	T	J	Y	O	L	E	K	F
W	N	A	L	E	A	S	T	Y	F



Color the Squirrels



Color Guide

Red Squirrel (on the tree)

Back—dark red-orange and brown

Belly—off white; there is often a dark stripe down the side

Tail—red-orange tipped with gray or black

Eye—dark brown with white circle around it

Chipmunk

Back—reddish brown

Sides—lighter brown

Stripes—two black on either side of a white stripe

Face—brown; stripe above and below eye white; other stripes dark brown

Eyes—dark brown

Tail—brownish gray

This artwork was provided by James Schweibert for use by Beaver Creek Reserve.