

Northern Flying Squirrel (*Glaucomys sabrinus*)



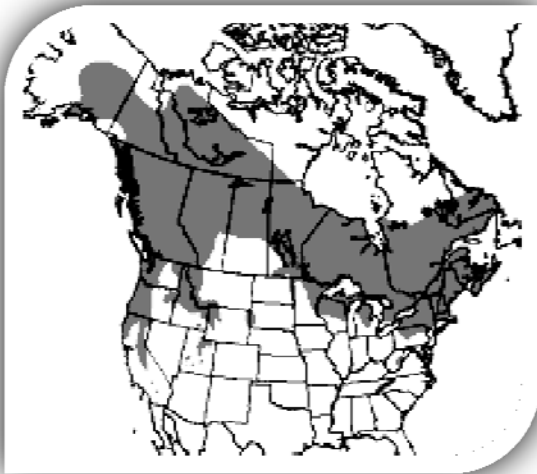
Taxonomy:

Family Sciuridae. There are 25 subspecies recognized, including the regional subspecies *Glaucomys sabrinus lucifugus*.

Description:

Northern flying squirrels vary in dorsal color from a pale cinnamon brown to dark ashy brown. The underside is usually creamy white and there is a dark stripe that runs along the lateral side, bordering the gliding membrane. They have large, dark eyes and prominent ears. The tail is flattened horizontally and are darker at the tip compared to the base.

Total length: 280-350 mm; Tail Length: 95-150 mm; Weight: 140-250 g.



Distribution:

Occur widely in the northern part of North America and in scattered mountain regions reaching areas as far south as southern California, as well as Utah, the Black Hills and regions in the southern Appalachians. Common at mid-elevations along the Wasatch Front.

Ecology and Diet:

Most often associated with dense conifer forests, but can also be found in mixed conifer and deciduous stands. They feed on fungi for most of their diet, but also consume seeds, nuts, fruit, insects, and birds' eggs. They are almost entirely nocturnal and are active year round. They are

best known for their gliding ability enabled by the flap of skin that stretches between fore and hind limbs.

Life History:

Mating occurs in the early spring with the young being born 37-42 days later. Litter sizes usually range from 2-4 offspring and they typically only have one litter per year, although some may have a second litter in late summer. Offspring are fully weaned at 60 days but begin to explore outside the nest around 40 days after being born.

Reference: Heaney, 1999.