



ALIEN SPECIES ALERT!



Have you seen this squirrel in your area?



The Ministry of Environment would like your assistance in determining the northern extent and range of the Eastern Grey Squirrel on Vancouver Island.

If you have seen an Eastern Grey Squirrel north of Duncan, west of Sooke, in the Lake Cowichan or Cobble Hill area, or on the Gulf Islands, please report your sighting online <http://web.viu.ca/eagillis/squirrels.htm> or call 1-250-751-3100

Eastern Grey Squirrels were introduced to Vancouver Island in 1966 from eastern North America. They are quickly spreading up the island from their point of introduction in Metchosin, near Victoria.

Eastern Grey Squirrel Physical Characteristics:

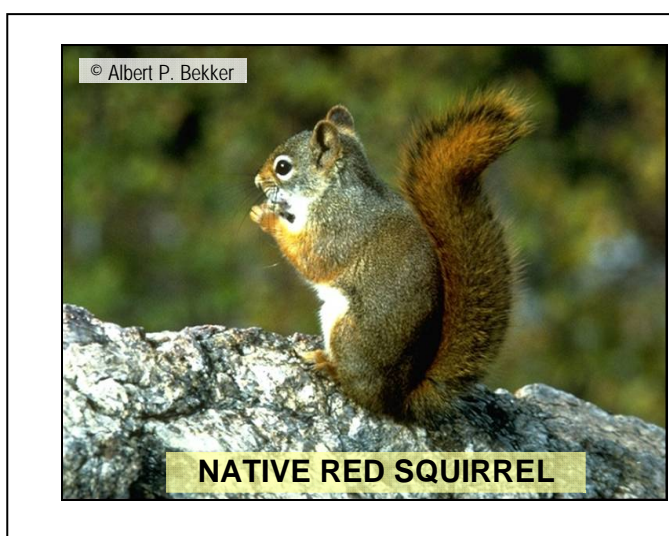
- Large body, twice the size of native red squirrels
- Large, fat, bushy tail
- Tail folds over head when resting
- Grey or black in colour

They are a threat to our native species:

- Compete with and displace native red squirrels
- Transfer disease to red squirrels
- Compete with native birds for tree cavities and bird feeders; eat bird eggs and nestlings
- Damage Garry Oak trees

Protect our native Vancouver Island species by:

- Not relocating Eastern Grey squirrels (it's illegal)
- Not feeding Eastern Grey Squirrels
- Controlling access to garbage, compost and bird feeders
- Use a squirrel deterrent in bird seed to repel squirrels and still attract birds
- Use squirrel proof feeders



Native Red Squirrel Physical Characteristics:

- Body, head, and tail are olive brown or rusty red
- Less bushy tail than grey, tipped with black
- Tail does not curl over head when resting
- White eye-ring
- Approximately half the size of the grey squirrel

For further information please visit the ministry website:
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/van-island/wildweb/generalinfo.htm>