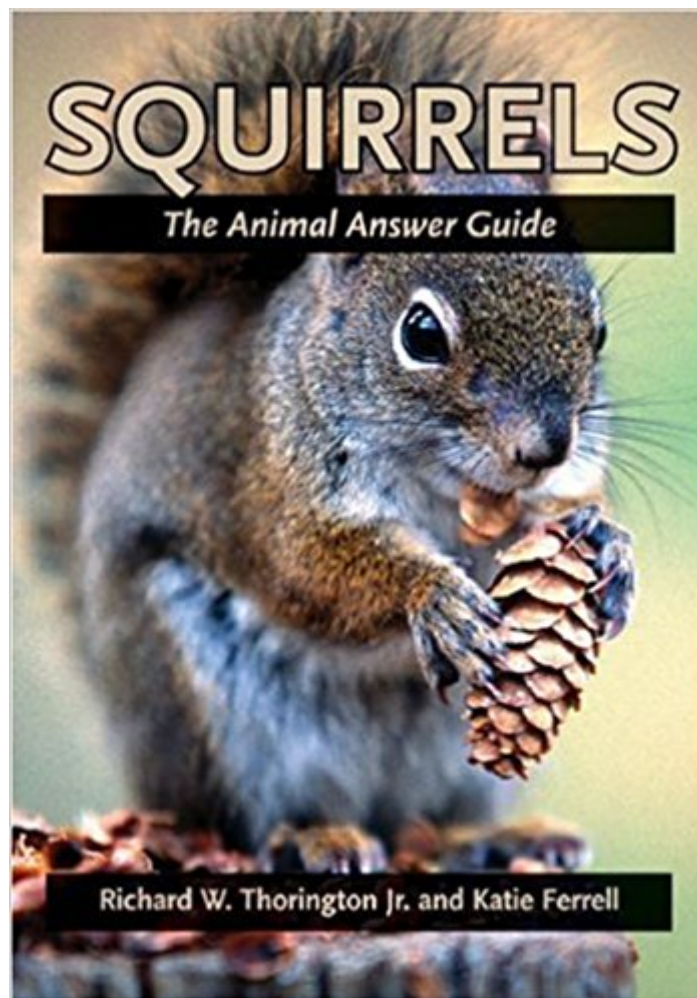




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# Squirrels: The Animal Answer Guide (The Animal Answer Guides: Q&A For The Curious Naturalist)



## Synopsis

Did you know that a groundhog is really a type of squirrel? That squirrels control their body temperature with their tails? That most squirrels have yellow-tinted eye lenses that work like sunglasses to reduce glare? That tree squirrels can turn their hind feet completely around when climbing down a tree head-first? In *Squirrels: The Animal Answer Guide*, Richard W. Thorington Jr. and Katie Ferrell unveil the fascinating world of one of the "most watched" mammals on the planet. The diversity of squirrels is astounding. There are 278 species that inhabit all continents except Antarctica and Australia—ranging in size from the lumbering 18-pound gray marmot to the graceful pygmy flying squirrel that is smaller than most mice. In many parts of the world they readily share human habitats, joining us for lunch in a city park, raiding our bird feeders, and sneaking into college dorm rooms through open windows. Reviled as pests or loved as an endearing amusement, squirrels have played important roles in trade, literature, and mythology. Thorington and Ferrell cover every aspect of this diverse animal family, from the first squirrels of 36 million years ago to the present day. With over one hundred photographs and an intuitive question-and-answer format, this authoritative and engaging guide sheds light on a common mammal that is anything but commonplace.

## Book Information

Series: The Animal Answer Guides: Q&A for the Curious Naturalist

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Johns Hopkins University Press (August 2, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0801884039

ISBN-13: 978-0801884030

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.5 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 56 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #492,734 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #145 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Zoology > Mammals](#) #401 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Mammals](#) #618 in [Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Reference](#)

## Customer Reviews

"A completely authoritative scholarly guide to the biology of a group of organisms and... a

completely readable, fully illustrated, and fascinating introduction for the general public." (National Museum of Natural History Weekly Update & Forecast)"Got squirrels? This book has answers. This is not a children's book... read it with an adult. Fun for all ages." (Washington Post)"Only a master at both scholarship and communication could pull this off as eloquently and clearly as Thorington and Ferrell have done." (Natural History News)"A deft account, for backyard naturalists and scientists both." (Harvard Magazine)"You may enjoy watching these acrobatic characters... [Thorington and Ferrell] will make them more interesting to observe." (Tuscaloosa News)"Unravels the mysteries of the 278 species of squirrels that inhabit the planet... this is a must read." (Princeton Alumni Weekly)"Well written and organized and contains numerous color and black-and-white photos." (Wildlife Activist)"It's rare to see all the science of a college text embedded into a lively presentation also geared for the general audience— but here, it works very well." (California Bookwatch)"Eminently interesting." (Susan Lumenello Colloquy)"This engaging guide sheds light on a common mammal that is anything but commonplace." (Wildlife Conservation)"In this wide-ranging, accurate, and revealing approach to the subject, squirrels are placed in a world-wide context." (Kim Long Bloomsbury Review)"Fascinating book sure to entertain readers of all ages and backgrounds." (Internet Bookwatch)"Thorington and Ferrell have succeeded in producing a short, accessible guide that is of tremendous value to both the scientist and the amateur naturalist alike." (Michael A. Steele Journal of Mammalian Evolution)"What a treat. Buy it, read it, but don't squirrel it away— pass it on!" (William L. Gannon Journal of Mammalogy)"An accessible account of the large and diverse squirrel family... this book will appeal to the general public and scientists alike." (Southeastern Naturalist)"This book is an answer to all questions relative to the American squirrels." (Francis Petter Mammalia)"A delightful read, well written, well organized, and well illustrated. This is the only such account of the entire family of Sciuridae. As one who has spent most of his career studying squirrels, I was quite surprised at how much I don't know and how much I learned from this book! Thorington and Ferrell have pulled off an extremely thorough account that will be of tremendous interest to the general public and many scientists alike." (Michael Steele, Ph.D., Wilkes University, author of North American Tree Squirrels)

Richard W. Thorington, Jr. is a curator of mammals at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. For many years Katie Ferrell was Dr. Thorington's research assistant at the Smithsonian.

I bought this book to have a more in depth look at just squirrels. I was very disappointed that the

majority of the pictures are black and white, was this printed in the 70's?! There's a lot of helpful information otherwise but the different species of squirrels are not easy to identify with black and white photos.

This book was an invaluable tool as we cared for a baby squirrel we found. It gave us ideas on what to feed him, as well as answered questions regarding squirrels we had no idea about! (Things my kids wanted to know but I had no answers for - like, can they get sick and do they swim?) I recommend it even if you're not caring for one of these fun, inquisitive creatures!

A book full of fun and interesting facts about one of my favorite backyard creatures.

Learning a lot of info with this book. I have at least 20 different squirrels at our bird feeder every day and wanted to get a better idea on how they live. This book was very informative.

If one is interested in squirrels this is the comprehensive book for you. This is not a kid's book about squirrels. This is a book for the serious squirrel watcher like I am.

Not very scholarly, which is what I expected. Very little on behavior.

love squirrels and this is great information. The book smells like moldy or that it came from a basement. I brought it used

Excellent and very informative. However, do wish they had more photos of the West coast squirrels. I have Western grays in my back yard!

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