

EASTERN CHIPMUNK

Tamias striatus

Family: **Sciuridae**

Omnivore / Prey

Native to Virginia



The eastern chipmunk is a common site in deciduous forests, parks, and backyards throughout Virginia. They are small, fast-moving, and easily recognized by the dark and light striping down their backs. They are diurnal- active only in mid-morning and mid-afternoon- and prefer areas with rocks and woody debris that offer protection from predators. Chipmunks practice ‘larder hoarding’ and store large amounts of food in their burrows. As temperatures fall, they retreat to their burrows and feed off of these stored food supplies during the winter months.

Fun Facts

- Chipmunks have expandable pouches in their cheeks that they fill with food as they forage.
 - When excavating their burrows, they will fill their cheek pouches with dirt and carry it away from the area to conceal the burrow’s location.
 - Chipmunks do not truly hibernate, but fall into a state of ‘torpor’, when both their body temperature and metabolic rate drop significantly to conserve energy.
 - The burrow of a chipmunk can be extensive, with multiple tunnels and several entrances that can be used for escape.
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