

Squirrels

North Carolina has red, gray, fox, and northern and southern flying squirrels. The [northern flying squirrel](#) is listed as Federally Endangered and are only found at elevations greater than 4,500 feet. [Southern flying squirrels](#) are found across the state but are rarely seen because they are nocturnal.

What kind of damage is caused by squirrels? Property damage incurred from squirrels is usually caused by gray squirrels. They will occasionally get into individuals' attics or under houses through small holes or by chewing through siding. Squirrels can also cause damage by chewing on porches or through electrical wiring.

Can a WCA write a depredation permit? Yes, a WCA can write depredation permits for squirrels. Since northern flying squirrels are listed as federally endangered, they cannot be removed without first obtaining a federal depredation permit. The USDA Wildlife Services facilitates the procurement of federal permits through the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Atlanta, Georgia. If there is any question of species, please contact the Wildlife Helpline at (866) 318-2401 or wildlifehelpline@ncwildlife.org.

Can they be relocated? Yes, squirrels can be relocated onto private property with the permission of the landowner.

What can I do with sick or injured squirrels? There are licensed [rehabilitators](#) across the state that can take in injured or orphaned wildlife. If a young squirrel falls out of the nest, advise the individual to either put the squirrel back in the nest or leave it alone and wait 24 hours before contacting a rehabilitator. Adults will come back for young and build new nests if needed.

Are there any safety concerns? No, however it is good practice to wear gloves when handling any animal.

Non-lethal Options:

- See the [General Considerations for Handling Wildlife](#) document for general ways to prevent damage from wildlife.
- Exclusion
 - Use fine mesh hardware cloth or chicken wire to cover any openings and prevent squirrels from getting into a residence.
- Harassment
 - Placing chili powder on the area where the squirrels are chewing can act as a taste deterrent.
 - Noise deterrents can be used but are most effective if the squirrels have just begun coming into the area and persists every time the animals return.
- Relocation
 - If the squirrels are causing property damage, they can be trapped under a depredation permit and relocated. They can only be relocated onto private property with landowner permission.

Lethal options:

- Squirrels can be taken during the established hunting seasons with a valid license. A landowner does not need a hunting license to hunt on their own property.
- Squirrels that are causing property damage can be trapped and humanely euthanized under a state depredation permit.