

Siberian chipmunk

Tamias sibiricus

Invasive: High impact

Species profile

- Habitat:** Terrestrial.
- Distribution in Ireland:** Localised and scattered distribution.
- Status:** Not currently established, but if a viable population was to establish the species could be a high impact invader.
- Family name:** Sciuridae.
- Reproduction:** The gestation period ranges from 35-40 days with a litter of 4-10 offspring.

Identifying features

- Size:** Small (20-25cm) in total length and similar shape to other tree squirrel species.
- Weight:** An adult chipmunk weighs about 100g (Range from 50-150g).
- Tail:** The tail is generally 1/3 the overall length of the species.
- Stripes:** The species has 5 dark vertical stripes separated by lighter zones of the same width, down its back from head to rump.



Frontal view of a Siberian chipmunk notice the tail which is one third the length of the entire animal
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A Siberian chipmunk perched on a fence while feeding.
Dark stripes visible on back
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Invasive: High impact

Threats

May compete directly with the red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) and other forest rodents for food and resources.

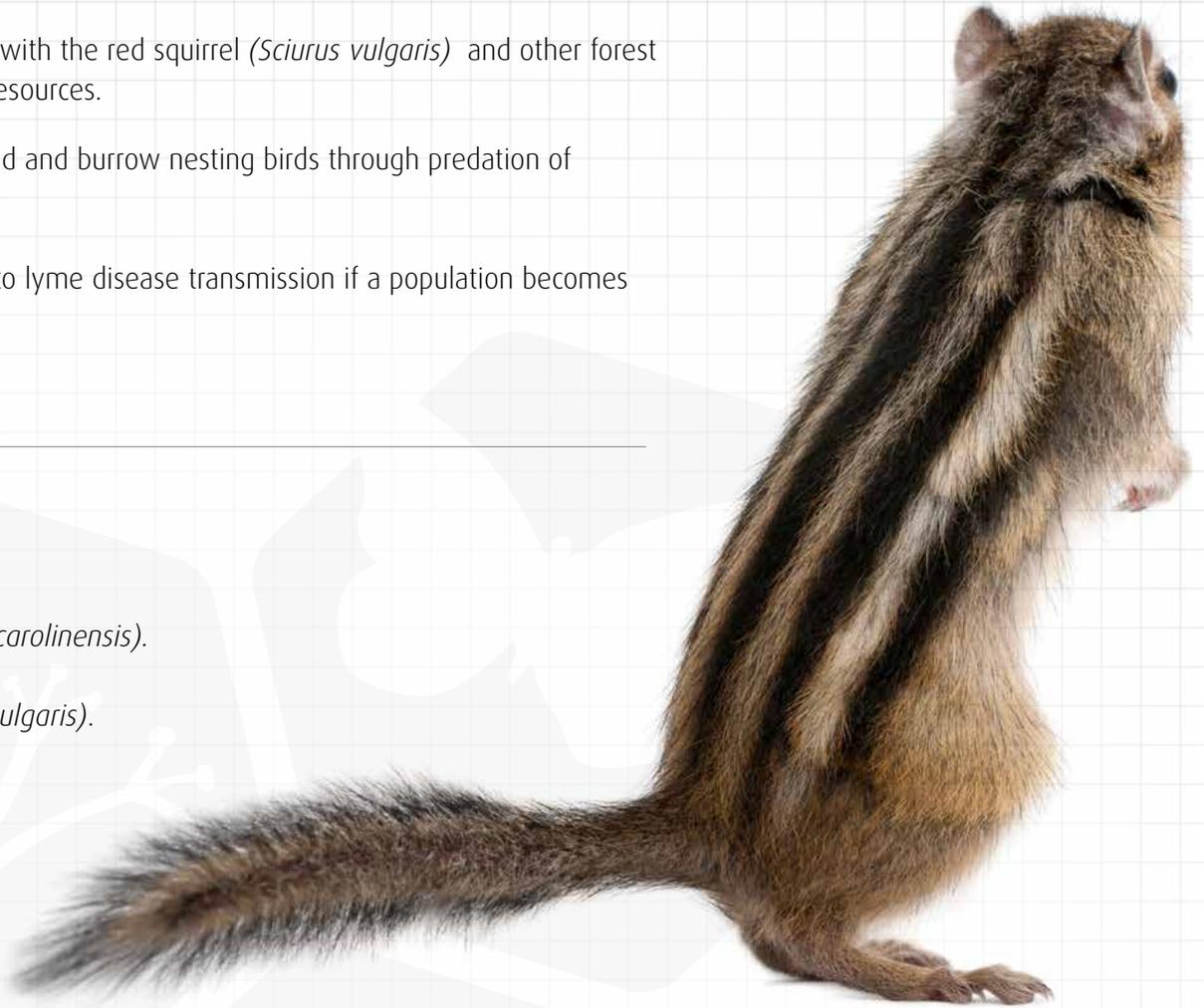
Could impact on ground and burrow nesting birds through predation of their eggs.

Slight risk of increase to lyme disease transmission if a population becomes established.

Similar species

Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*).

Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*).



Dark stripes running vertically along the back of the animal. © Shutterstock



The red squirrel showing its colouring and distinctive ear tufts © Shutterstock



Grey squirrel showing pale coat and white underside © Shutterstock

