



FAST FACTS about WHITE SQUIRRELS

DESCRIPTION

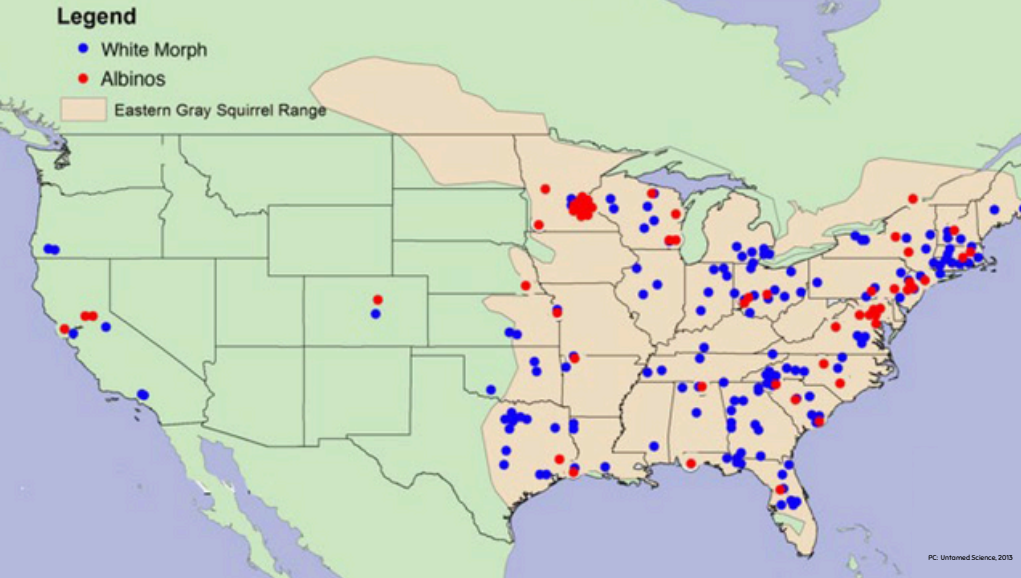
PC: Robert Chest March, 2023

The White Squirrel is actually a genetic anomaly due to a mutated gene from the common Eastern Gray Squirrel. It is called leucism, which is a condition characterized by reduced pigmentation in animals caused by a recessive allele. Unlike albinism, it is a reduction of all types of skin pigment, not just melanin. White squirrels lack red eyes and also tend to have a gray patch on their heads and what is referred to as a 'dorsal stripe' down their backs.



Legend

- White Morph
- Albinos
- Eastern Gray Squirrel Range



PC: Untamed Science, 2013

HABITAT AND RANGE

These unique squirrels can be found in North America and Canada, with notable populations existing in Brevard, North Carolina, Marionville, Missouri, Onley, Illinois, and Exeter, Ontario, Canada.

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FORGOTTEN COAST HISTORY

In the 1950s, White Squirrels were brought to a hunting and fishing lodge in Sopchoppy, Florida (pictured) from a small population protected by a farmer in Gadsen County, Florida. Since then, they have spread up and down the Ochlockonee River. This trait is considered dominant in the area as 8 out of 10 squirrels are white.

PC: State of Florida Archives, 1961



A LUCKY SIGN

In some cultures, white squirrels are identified as mythological creatures that symbolize the coming of change and the need to prepare for it! White squirrels are also often associated with good luck.