

Nat Theo Club

FIELD NOTES

ISSUE #53



Albert's Squirrel

RODENT

HABITAT

Ponderosa pine forests in the western United States and northern Mexico. Eat seeds, fungi, inner tree bark and sap, insects, antlers, bones.

FUN FACT

Albert's squirrels can be black, gray, or reddish, and are known for their tufted ears.



HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A SQUIRREL HIDING AWAY ACRONS?

You won't find an Albert's squirrel doing that. Albert's squirrels do not make food caches (hiding places for stashing food) like other tree squirrels do.

I saw two Albert's squirrels while in the mountains last week. I love seeing the black Albert's squirrels bound across a fresh blanket of white snow. They are easy to see, and the contrast is beautiful. The smaller photo on the bottom left is one I took of an Albert's squirrel I saw last week.

Because Albert's squirrels do not stash away food for the winter like other squirrels do, they have to forage all winter. They stay very active in the cold months to find food. When it's very cold, and there is not much food to be found, they will resort to tougher foods, like nibbling through tree bark to get at the sap inside or even eating antlers and bones. They are very resourceful! That means they have clever ways of overcoming obstacles and staying alive.

Albert's squirrels depend on Ponderosa pine trees for food, shelter, and nesting.



Psalm 147:9 says God "gives food to the wild animals." Isn't it amazing how God planned out every habitat to provide for each animal? God planned all the plants and insects and every detail of creation to make sure creatures have what they need. Although those detailed plans are broken because of sin's curse, we can still see how God carefully provides for creation, and one day, He will restore everything to perfect order. We can trust in God's detailed planning and provision.

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