

# CHIPMUNK

## DISTINGUISHING MARKS

Chipmunks are small, active squirrels, which live principally on the ground, but some species restricted to the coniferous forests, know how climb excellently. Originally from Asia, chipmunks have speed as in the formula1 races. In nature they live in the loose communities in grassy terrain, coarsemeshed forests. Weight of the chipmunk as adult is 70- 120 g and life-span 6-10 years. Striped chipmunk lives in the forests and shrubbery areas of eastern United States and south-eastern Canadian. It has long vertical black and white stripes in its back.

## NOURISHMENT

The chipmunks of the northern forests don't eat lots of seeds and buds of the conifers. They eat principally nuts of leaf trees and berries. Chipmunks start their busy food collecting for storage, when the first frost has come in autumn. It collects nuts to its stretchy cheek bags, even 17 nuts at the same time. On the contrary as squirrels, chipmunks sleep winter sleep and wake up only now to eat from its food stores. Just like other squirrels, also chipmunks ease the spreading of the trees: they do not often find their caches again, when seeds germinate.

