

## 82. Voles \*

**TRAITS:** Small mammal with rounded nose, short tail, short legs; long front teeth for gnawing.

**HABITAT:** Forests, shrublands, and grassy areas, lowland and alpine tundra.

**FOODS:** Fresh green vegetation, seeds, roots, berries, mushrooms, and other fungi; alpine plants and lichens.

**EATEN BY:** Foxes, marten, weasels, boreal and hawk owls, jaegers, hawks.

**"GEE WHIZ":** Some species of voles gather and dry large amounts of green vegetation during summer to serve as their winter food supply.



## 83. Lemmings T

**TRAITS:** Small mammal; thick fur, short legs, tail, and ears.

**HABITAT:** Alpine and lowland tundra.

**FOODS:** Shoots of grasses, sedges, and other plants in summer; bark and twigs of willow and dwarf birch and roots of various tundra plants in winter; occasionally insects, berries, and fungi.

**EATEN BY:** Owls, jaegers, gulls, arctic foxes, weasels.

**"GEE WHIZ":** Some species of lemmings turn white in winter and grow shovel-like claws for digging through snow and ice.



## 84. Red Squirrel F

**TRAITS:** Small mammal with long front teeth; short legs, large bushy tail; red brown on back, whitish underneath.

**HABITAT:** Coniferous forests.

**FOODS:** Mainly seeds of spruce and other conifers; berries, mushrooms; less often, bird eggs and young.

**EATEN BY:** Marten, goshawks, great horned owls.

**"GEE WHIZ":** When carrying and caching its food, this animal helps scatter seeds of spruce and berry-producing plants.

