

## Uinta chipmunk (*Tamias umbrinus*)



### **Taxonomy:**

Family Sciuridae. Seven subspecies are recognized, including *Tamias umbrinus umbrinus* from the Wasatch region.

### **Description:**

Distinguished from the cliff chipmunk by its prominent dorsal stripes, and from the least chipmunk by its less well-defined dark lateral stripes and larger size (hind foot longer than 30 mm).

Total length: 210-240 mm; Tail: 84-119 mm; Hind foot: 30-34 mm; Ear: 17-19 mm); Weight: 51-80 g.



### **Distribution:**

Occurs in the central Rocky Mountain, Uintah, and Wasatch mountain systems, the southern Sierra Nevada range, and mountains of the interior Great Basin. Common in forested habitats at mid to high elevations along the Wasatch Front.

### **Ecology and diet:**

Uinta chipmunks occur in wide variety of habitats over a broad elevational range, but are most numerous in forest and woodland habitat rather than open areas. They are good climbers and often forage in trees. Their diet consists primarily of seeds, but also includes other plant

matter, fungi, and insects. As is the case with other chipmunks, this species is active during the day and hibernates during winter months. This is the most widespread and abundant chipmunk in the Park, often seen in campgrounds and picnic areas.

### **Life History:**

Mating occurs in the spring upon emergence from hibernation. A litter of 4 to 5 young is born following a gestation of about 1 month. Only one litter is produced annually.

**References:** Bergstrom 1999.