



The eastern chipmunk in the foreground and the **eastern gray squirrel** (*Sciurus carolinensis*) behind him are both rodents, but they have different habits. The chipmunk is not very sociable. He spends most of his time on the ground and lives in an underground burrow, where he stores the nuts and seeds he has found. The squirrel, on the other hand, likes to play with other squirrels. He spends most of his time in the trees, but buries his booty in holes in the ground—which helps the forest, because some of the acorns and other seeds

take root and grow into trees.

The chipmunk's coat is reddish brown, with a dark stripe down its back and black and white stripes on either side. Its underside is white, and its tail is dark. The squirrel has a soft gray coat with a white underside. Both animals have dark lustrous eyes ringed with white.

The **partridgeberry** (*Mitchella repens*) in the foreground is an evergreen creeper with brilliant red fruit.