

Why do North American Red Squirrel, *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*, Mothers Relocate Their Young? A Predation-based Hypothesis

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Our study reports the first observations consistent with Short-Tailed Weasel predation on juvenile North American Red Squirrels in the nest. Red Squirrel mothers are known to relocate their young to another nest after a disturbance. We suggest that this behaviour might be an efficient strategy that reduces the impact of litter depredation by weasels.

Key Words: North American Red Squirrel, *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*, Short-Tailed Weasel, *Mustela erminea*, nest predation, juvenile survival, juvenile relocation, arboreal foraging, nest defence.