



LUCH FHÉIR

FIELD MOUSE

Apodemus sylvaticus

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The little stars on this map represent the distribution of Field Mice throughout Ireland. Each square on the map is equivalent to 100 kilometres by 100 kilometres.



The Field Mouse is one of our prettiest little animals. It has a coat of brown and white fur with an orange spot on the chest. This tiny, timid creature has a long tail, large oval ears and huge short-sighted eyes. In spite of its name, it can also be found in hedgerows, scrub, woods and even sand-dunes. Field Mice sleep during the day and move around at night. They are very active animals, running, hopping and climbing, always on the look-out for seeds, berries, nuts and insects. They like to save food and sometimes they scramble up a tree to use an old bird's nest as a food store. The Field Mouse makes a burrow about three feet below the surface. This burrow has three entrances.

The breeding nest is made of shredded grass and is found at the end of the burrow. The mother Field Mouse produces a litter of four to eight babies and she may have three or more litters in one year. The young are born blind and they open their eyes in about a fortnight. They remain in the family burrow even when they are fully-grown, sharing it with brothers and sisters and other relatives. Field Mice have good reason to be nervous for they have many enemies such as cats, dogs, stoats, foxes and crows. Field Mice do not hibernate although they are less active in the winter. They have the food which they stored in burrows or holes during Autumn.

PROTECT OUR WILDLIFE – PLEASE DO NOT LITTER

ENFO

17 St. Andrew Street, Dublin 2.

LoCall: 1890 200 191

Tel: (01) 888 3911 / (01) 888 3933

Email: info@enfo.ie

Web: www.enfo.ie

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R.phost: info@enfo.ie

Gréasán: www.enfo.ie

