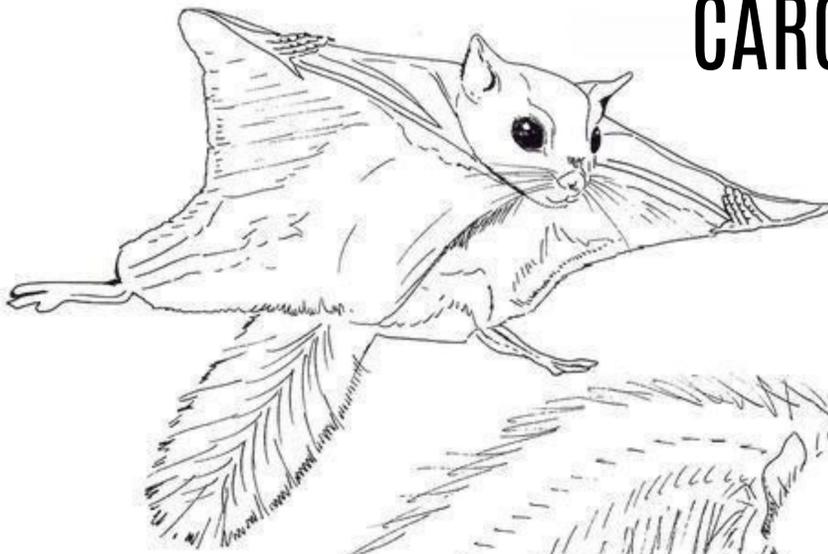


CAROLINA NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL



FUN FACT:

Only recently have scientists discovered that Flying Squirrels glow under ultraviolet light. They glow an almost neon pink. A Flying Squirrel has a furry, parachute-like membrane between their front and back limbs. These flaps catch air as the squirrel falls, allowing them to gently glide. They are able to glide up to 300 feet.



Coloring sheet reference: Howell Nature Center

All three species of flying squirrels have porphyrins in their skin and fur. When exposed to UV light, the porphyrins absorb UV and then emit it as visible light, so these squirrels glow a bright pink. This is called biofluorescence. There are many animals that biofluoresce, but not all are pink! Most often they are in the blue-green range of visible light.



Photo Credit: Lee Rentz