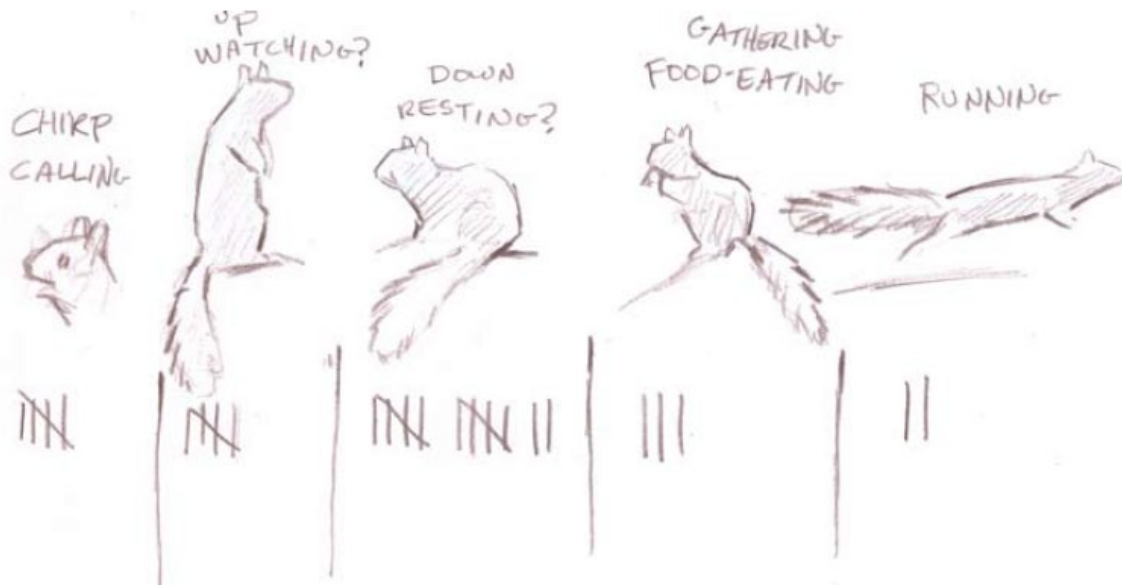


## Timed Behavioral Observations

Find a stationary but active animal or group of animals, such as a colony of ground squirrels, Robins on a lawn, flock of ducks, or an active bird feeder. Pick one individual and quickly sketch what it is doing- its basic behaviors and postures. These can be simple cartoons but should capture the basics of the posture. Does it have its head up or down? Does it have a feeding position or characteristic postures for other activities?

Divide the sketches into categories of observed behavior, e.g., feeding, alert/watching, walking to search for food, walking away from danger or disturbance, running, resting, courtship, etc. When you have established at least three different types of behaviors, begin the timed interval study.

For 5 minutes, record the behavior of one individual every twenty seconds by placing a hash mark in the appropriate box. If the individual leaves, re-start the five-minute observation with a new individual. Repeat this until you have at least two full five-minute observation recordings, or four attempted observation recordings. You can make your recordings on this sheet or in your journal, but the format should look something like:



(Image copied from California Native Plant Society)

How do you think these behaviors would change with the time of day or weather? Repeat this activity at least once under different environmental conditions. This could also be done at two different locations with the same animals, for example squirrels in your yard versus squirrels at a park.

## Timed Observational Study Data Sheet

**Location:**

**Time & Date:**

**Weather:**

**Surrounding activity:**

<i>Behavior</i>			
<i>Sketch</i>			
1			
2			
3			
4			

**Location:**

**Time & Date:**

**Weather:**

**Surrounding activity:**

<i>Behavior</i>			
<i>Sketch</i>			
1			
2			
3			
4			