

What's the loudest noise a squirrel has ever made?

There are over 360 species of squirrels, including tree squirrels, ground squirrels, flying squirrels, gophers and prairie dogs.

Squirrels communicate through a series of chirps and body movements. The frequency, and duration of the sounds they make and the wide variety of tail and body movements is how they communicate.

I was able to find lots of information online about squirrel and animal communication in general. For some reason, there is not a lot of information on the loudness of animal sounds.

Loudness (the volume or strength of a sound) is measured in decibels. Each 10 decibels increases the energy by 10 times. In other words, 20 decibels has 10 times the energy of 10 decibels, and 30 decibels has 100 times that of 10 decibel.

The human ear can hear sounds from just a tiny fraction above 0 decibels to over 130 decibels. At the higher range even brief exposures can cause pain and damage to the ears.

A whisper is about 30 decibels.

Normal conversation is about 50 decibels.

The African Cicada (*Brevisana brevis*) chirps at 106 decibels.

Your home smoke detector is about 108 decibels.

A running chainsaw is about 110 decibels.

The loudest human speaking voice is 112 decibels.

A full grown African Lion's (*Panthera leo*) roar reaches about 114 decibels.

A River Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibious*) bellow can reach 115 decibels.

A jet taking off is about 130 decibels.

The Bulldog Bat (*Noctilio leporinus*) echolocates at 130 decibels.

A Blue Whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) can make sounds up to 180 decibels.

A loud rock concert is about 250 decibels.

An erupting volcano can be over 270 decibels.

All that said: there may have been a squirrel somewhere, which stepped on a twig, which bumped an acorn, which moved a pebble, which shook a rock, which rolled a stone, which started an avalanche and made a VERY LOUD NOISE...