

Canada Lynx

Lynx canadensis

STATUS	Endangered 	Not Listed 
Not Listed 	Endangered 	Not Listed 



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Species Description

The Canada Lynx is a medium-sized cat (80-90 cm long) with long legs, large paws, and a short tail with a solid black tip. In the winter its coat is a mottled greyish colour, changing to reddish brown in the summer. It has long black-tipped ear tufts. It is a secretive and shy species that is mainly active during the night.

Found in northern forests of North America. At-risk populations found in high elevation areas in Cape Breton, and northern areas of New Brunswick.



Habitat

Occurs in a diversity of habitats for denning, shelter and food, in areas with deep winter snow. Typically found in coniferous forests with snowshoe hares (their main prey). Requires forests that exhibit patterns of disturbance (insect outbreaks, fire) and regeneration, which creates pockets of different forest types suitable for different activities.



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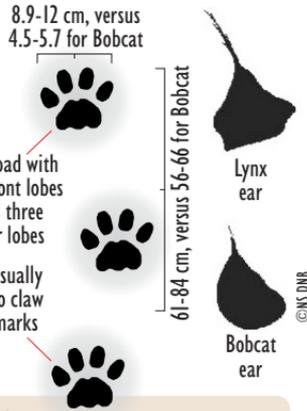


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Lynx are typically observed in high elevation areas in Cape Breton and in northwestern New Brunswick between Edmundston and Campbellton.

Interesting Points

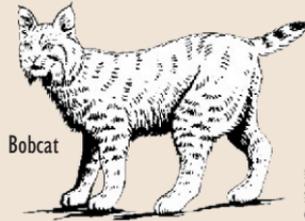
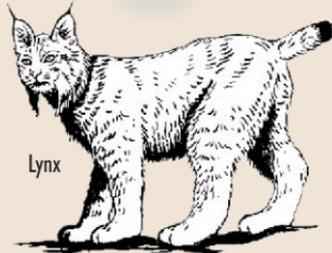
- The Mi'kmaw name for Lynx is "Apuksikn"
- Has cyclical population fluctuations approximately every ten years.
- Extirpated from mainland NS, and PEI, but lynx from nearby populations can potentially be found anywhere in the Maritimes when food is scarce.
- Its large paws, covered in dense hair, act like snowshoes during the winter in deep snow conditions.



Similar Species

Bobcat:

Found throughout the province; slightly smaller (80-88 cm long); shorter limbs and smaller paws; short ear tufts; more spotty and darker coloured fur; top of tail black with black bars.



Threats to Survival

- Historically, un-regulated trapping greatly reduced the lynx population. Public trapping was banned in the 1970s and 1980s, but lynx are still incidentally caught in traps set for other species.
- Global warming may cause more moderate winters and disruptions to the snowshoe hare cycle.
- Forestry activities fragment and modify Lynx habitat.
- Bobcats and coyotes may compete for prey.



How You Can Help

Learn to recognize this species and report sightings. Reduce your greenhouse gas emissions at home and work to help maintain the deep snow found in Cape Breton and northern New Brunswick. Be an advocate of sustainable forestry practices and consult the Special Management Practices found in the link under Info. Trappers can learn how to avoid accidentally catching lynx and proper release methods at www.speciesatrisk.ca/martenandlynx.

Contacts, Information & Sighting Reports

Contact: NS DNR (902) 679-6091, or NB DNR (506) 453-3826

Info: Special Management Practices for Canada Lynx:
www.novascotia.ca/natr/wildlife/habitats/terrestrial/pdf/SMP_Canada_Lynx.pdf

Sighting Reports: 1-866-727-3447 or www.speciesatrisk.ca/sightings