

Canada Lynx

Lynx canadensis

STATUS

Not listed



Endangered

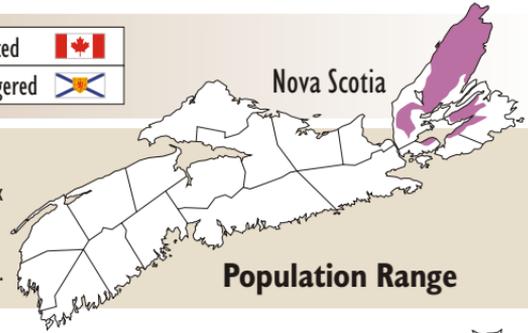


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Species Description

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 high elevation areas in Cape Breton. Lynx populations are cyclic and range from 100-500 individuals in Nova Scotia.



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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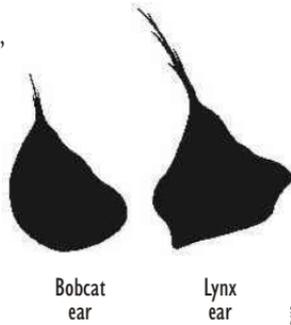


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Lynx are typically observed in high elevation areas in Cape Breton such as Cape Breton Highlands, North Mountain, Keppoch Highlands, and Boisdale Hills.

Interesting Points

- The Mi'kmaw name for Lynx is “*Apuksikn*”
- Has cyclical population fluctuations approximately every ten years.
- Extirpated from mainland Nova Scotia in the 1950s, but lynx from Cape Breton can travel as far as Yarmouth County when food is scarce.
- Its large paws, covered in dense hair, act like snowshoes during the winter in deep snowy conditions



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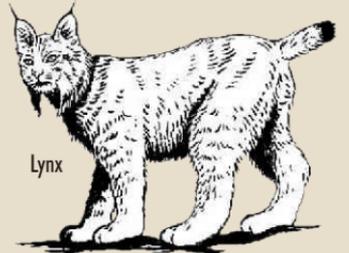
Similar Species

Bobcat:

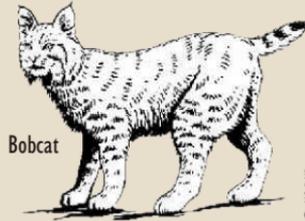
Found throughout the province; slightly smaller (80-88 cm long); shorter limbs and smaller paws; short ear tufts; more spotty and darker coloured fur; top of tail black with black bars.



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Lynx



Bobcat

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Threats to Survival

- Historically, un-regulated trapping greatly reduced the lynx population. Public trapping was banned in the 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.



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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. Be an advocate of sustainable forestry practices. 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

Info: www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/biodiv/specieslist.htm

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