

SPECIES AT RISK in New Brunswick



C. Neveu

Canada Lynx

Scientific name: *Lynx canadensis*
N.B. Status: Regionally Endangered

Canada Lynx

Description & Biology

The Canada Lynx is a medium sized cat with grey-brown fur. Its long black legs give it an inclined posture. It is distinguished from the Bobcat by the long pointed tufts on its ears, an entirely dark-tipped tail, and fewer spots on its legs and belly. This species has particularly large paws, which is an adaptation that allows it to move on deep snow easily in order to hunt its primary prey, the snowshoe hare.

The height of the breeding season is from mid March to the beginning of April, with a gestation period of 9 weeks. Litter sizes are usually 2-3 and can sometimes be up to 5 kittens. They stay with their mother for the first winter only, after which they become solitary.

Habitat & Survival

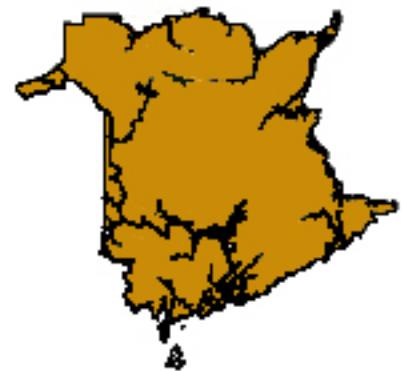
Canada Lynx is commonly associated with extensive boreal forests. It chooses areas that are beneficial to snowshoe hare, usually in forests where there is dense vegetation and shrubbery.

Numerous studies have demonstrated that lynx populations are influenced by the density of the snowshoe hare population. As snowshoe hare populations become larger or smaller, so do the lynx populations. This occurs because the amount of food available to lynx influences their reproductive success and the survival of kittens and adults.

Distribution

The population size and trends for the lynx population in New Brunswick is poorly understood due to lack of information. The data we do have indicate that the lynx may occur throughout the province, but that it is more common in northern New Brunswick. New Brunswick is near the southern limit of its distribution.

The Canada Lynx is found throughout the majority of forested areas of northern Canada, from Newfoundland to British Columbia including the western part of the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Alaska. The southern portion of its distribution includes a small portion of the United States, including parts of the Rocky Mountains, the Midwest and New England.



NB Distribution
of Canada Lynx