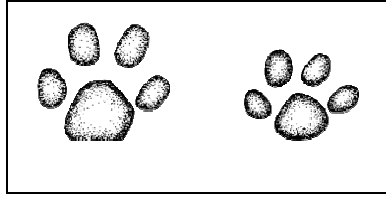


Lynx Links



Updates from the Minnesota Lynx Study Superior National Forest /Natural Resources Research Institute

CANADA LYNX MAKE MINNESOTA HOME

Caught kittens add depth to Lynx Study

On June 7, Minnesota Lynx Study biologists located what may be the first Canada lynx den ever documented in Minnesota. A visit to the den of female lynx “L07,” one of 13 radiocollared Canada lynx in the study, turned up three healthy kittens. The kittens were measured, weighed, and fitted with a small ear tag.

Finding a den with kittens is a milestone in our study because it documents once and for all that Canada lynx are reproducing on the Superior National Forest. Additional dens must be found before a general description of Canada lynx den habitat requirements in Minnesota can be made, but locating the den site makes it possible to identify at least one type of den habitat used by Canada lynx in Minnesota. Further measurements and evaluation of the den site will be completed after the lynx become mobile and move away from the site. The lynx study team will also be able to monitor the three kittens to see how well they survive the summer months. The ear tags will help determine where these kittens go if they reach adulthood and disperse.

Scientists think that another study animal, Canada lynx, “L05,” located about 35 miles northwest of the den site in early June, is the father of these kittens. Blood and hair samples, collected for DNA analysis, may make it possible to confirm this.

Since the last Lynx Links an additional 2 Canada lynx were radiocollared and 2 bobcats were added as study animals. L14 was a 23 pound female captured near Isabella and fitted with a GPS collar. L15 was a 27 pound male captured near Grand Marais and fitted with a VHF telemetry collar. One of the bobcats was captured near Grand Marais, the other bobcat was captured near Brimson. Both bobcats are wearing VHF collars.

Check our website frequently as we will be adding kitten pictures and other information in the next few days at <http://www.nrri.umn.edu/lynx/index.html>. We thank the field crews, the project coordinators, the volunteers, contributors and all who made this positive step possible.



Getting radiotelemetry equipment ready



Processing a kitten near the den site



Positioning an ear tag for insertion



The den site was under this log



One of the Canada lynx kittens



Collecting a blood sample