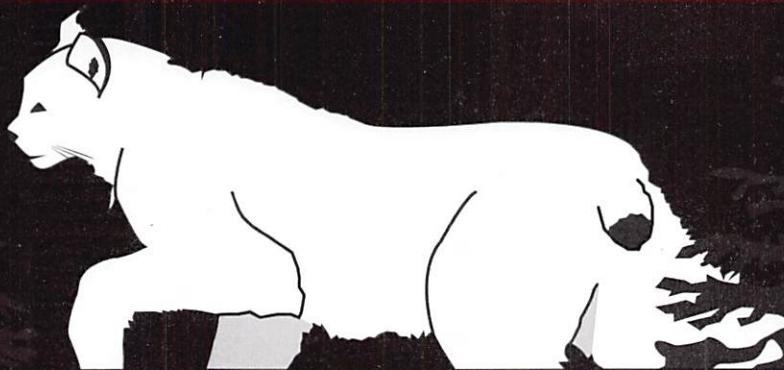




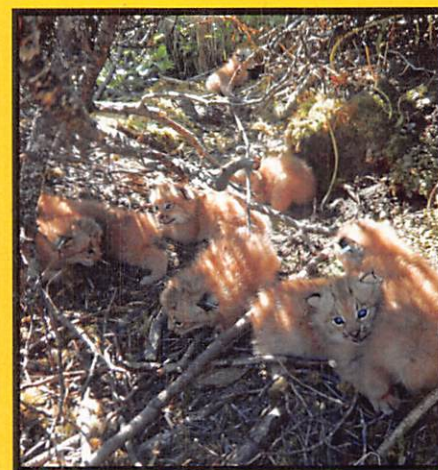
Did You Know?



- ① **The one and only:** Lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) is the only member of the cat family native to Alaska.
- ② **Not always alone:** While lynx are generally thought to be solitary, new research in Alaska suggests that male and female lynx socialize outside the breeding season.
- ③ **Mesopredator:** Lynx are mid-sized animals that eat other animals. Most adult lynx weigh between 18-30 pounds (8.2-13.6 kg).¹
- ④ **Lowlands and highlands:** Lynx range throughout the boreal forests of Alaska, Canada, and some northern continental US states. While often associated with forested lowland habitats, they also venture into alpine areas for hunting and denning.
- ⑤ **Not a bobcat:** Lynx are closely related to their Lower 48 cousin, the bobcat. Lynx, however, have larger paws and longer legs, longer ear tufts, a black-tipped tail, and a longer, mostly gray coat. Bobcats, which are more generalist predators than lynx, have shorter, more spotted fur, with a banded tail that is black tipped on top and white underneath.²
- ⑥ **What to eat?:** A lynx's favorite food is the snowshoe hare, and not surprisingly, lynx populations are closely tied to snowshoe hare populations. When the hare population peaks, lynx numbers reach peak levels a couple years later. After hare populations crash, lynx numbers also plummet. This is called a numerical response, when a predator's population density is directly tied to a prey's population density.
- ⑦ **Good times and bad:** Female lynx typically have litters of 3-5 kittens. When hares are abundant, they may have as many as 8 young; when hares are scarce, they may not produce litters at all, or the kittens do not survive.



A lynx walks towards a trail camera in Gates of the Arctic National Park.



Eight 3-4-week-old lynx kittens await their mother's return beneath a fallen spruce tree. These kittens have been ear tagged by biologists for identification should they be recaptured later.

8 Luxurious, soft fur: In Alaska, lynx are trapped for their fur, which is either kept by the trapper to make into warm garments for themselves, into handicrafts to sell, or they are sold to the fur industry for the manufacture of fur coats.³

9 Big movers: On occasion, lynx move great distances, sometimes travelling hundreds of miles across the landscape into new territory (see maps below).

1. <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=lynx.main>
2. <https://animals.howstuffworks.com/mammals/bobcat-vs-lynx1.htm>
3. <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/wildliferegulations/p>

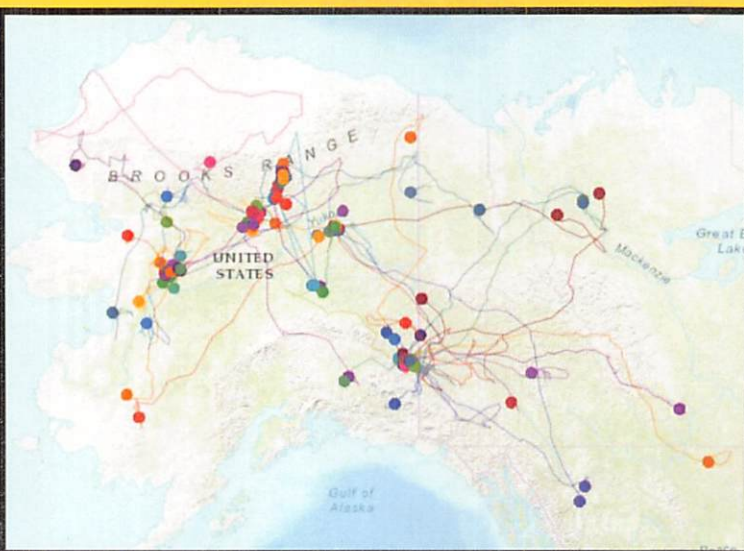


Far Left: Lynx Project Principal Investigator Knut Kielland and graduate student Claire Montgomerie collect vital signs data from a tranquilized lynx.

Upper near left: A collared adult male lynx walks off following his release. The collar transmits location data to a satellite every 4 hours, which is then downloaded onto biologists' computers for analysis of his movements.

Lower near left: A collared female lynx with two of her kittens. Females usually give birth in early June.

Questions? Contact Donna DiFolco, NPS, at:
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Maps showing dispersal routes of collared lynx: On the left, female lynx who were originally collared in the Koyukuk/Dietrich valley in the Brooks Range departed the area in April 2020 to travel hundreds of miles east into Yukon Territory, Canada, west to Norton Sound and the Chukchi Sea, and south to the Yukon River. The map on the right shows the locations and dispersal patterns of lynx collared by all the collaborators in the Northern Boreal Lynx Project. Most collared lynx remain in the area where they are collared, but approximately 20%-30% disperse, sometimes into entirely new habitats from whence they came.

The National Park Service has teamed up with the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the US Fish and Wildlife Service in a landscape scale study of lynx movements and dispersal behavior. One major objective of the study is to examine space use by dispersing lynx, what landscape features are used for traveling, and how dispersal may be influenced by human activity. Understanding the resource and habitat requirements for lynx will help land managers prioritize permitted land uses and the protective measures needed to ensure that critical habitat corridors between conservation units is maintained.