

Canada Lynx Taken by Trapping in Minnesota Since 2002¹

Incident Summaries

November 7, 2002 – Lynx trapped in fox set, St. Louis County

How was the lynx killed, captured, or injured? Caught in a trap by private landowner on his property; landowner reported it to Steve Loch (MN DNR). Steve and the local MN DNR CO (Kip Duncan) went to the site and released the animal.

If killed, describe the mode of death in as much detail as possible. (A necropsy may be necessary.) Not applicable.

If caught in a snare or trap, what was the target animal? Fox

If a snare, how high was the top of the snare loop from the ground? How large was the loop? What size (thickness) cable was used? Not applicable.

If caught in a trap or snare, describe the set in as much detail as possible. Include photos if available. Captured in “fox set” (probably a 1 ¾ “victor coil”, Steve Loch, MN DNR, pers. comm. 2002).

If the animal was released alive, was it injured? Describe how the animal was assessed for injury and who assessed the animal. Steve Loch did not think that animal was injured.

December 21, 2002 – Lynx caught in leghold trap, Cook County

How was the lynx killed, captured, or injured? Caught in leghold trap. Animal was released by DNR CO (Conrad Tikkula)

If killed, describe the mode of death in as much detail as possible. (A necropsy may be necessary.) Not applicable.

If caught in a snare or trap, what was the target animal? Bobcat (S. Loch, pers. comm. 7/17/07).

If a snare, how high was the top of the snare loop from the ground? How large was the loop? What size (thickness) cable was used? Not applicable.

¹ We are aware of no incidental captures of lynx between the listing date and the 11/7/02 incident listed here.

If caught in a trap or snare, describe the set in as much detail as possible. Include photos if available. Small leg-hold trap. “The set was a baited cubby targeting bobcats; the cubby was formed using conifer branches. The trap used was a 1 1/2 coil spring.” (S. Loch, pers. comm. 7/17/07).

If the animal was released alive, was it injured? Describe how the animal was assessed for injury and who assessed the animal. The lynx was held down by the trapper with a forked stick and the CO released the trap. It did not appear to cause any injury to the lynx...it bounded away very quickly using all feet.

January 4, 2003 – Lynx caught in trap and released, Cook County

Minnesota DNR spoke to trapper on 1/20/2004

How was the lynx killed, captured, or injured? Caught in trap. Trapper reported catching and releasing this animal.

If killed, describe the mode of death in as much detail as possible. (A necropsy may be necessary.) Not applicable.

If caught in a snare or trap, what was the target animal? Bobcat

If a snare, how high was the top of the snare loop from the ground? How large was the loop? What size (thickness) cable was used? Not applicable.

If caught in a trap or snare, describe the set in as much detail as possible. Include photos if available. Cubby set/leghold. “The set was a baited cubby targeting bobcats; the cubby was formed using conifer branches. The trap used was a 1 1/2 coil spring.” (S. Loch, pers. comm. 7/17/07).

If the animal was released alive, was it injured? Describe how the animal was assessed for injury and who assessed the animal. Appeared to be uninjured...ran away once released.

Notes: “This take occurred 1 mile SE of location of the 12/21/02 incident. Same trapper, same trap-type (1 1/2 coil), same set, but the animal released was a different lynx.” (S. Loch, pers. comm. 7/17/07).

January, 2003 – Bobcat x lynx hybrid caught in trap and killed (need date)

John Erb provided this information.

How was the lynx killed, captured, or injured? Lynx killed by a 220 Conibear set for fisher and turned in at Hibbing – apparently to be registered as a bobcat (John Erb). It was a hybrid lynx-bobcat (John Erb inquired if it should be included on this list? He

prefers it be removed since it is not a lynx per se).

If killed, describe the mode of death in as much detail as possible. (A necropsy may be necessary.)

If caught in a snare or trap, what was the target animal? Fisher.

If a snare, how high was the top of the snare loop from the ground? How large was the loop? What size (thickness) cable was used? Not applicable.

If caught in a trap or snare, describe the set in as much detail as possible. Include photos if available. It was caught in a 220 conibear set in a “cubby” box, using venison as bait.

If the animal was released alive, was it injured? Describe how the animal was assessed for injury and who assessed the animal. Not applicable.

January 5, 2003 – Lynx caught in snare, Koochiching County

Dave Rorem (CO) provided trapper’s contact information. I left messages, but never received a response.

How was the lynx killed, captured, or injured? Lynx was caught in trap (fox set) and killed. No further information at this time. On 11/5/04, Steve Loch sent an email in which he stated that the “lynx was snared at a fox set baited with deer meat, which was contained in a bait box. Lynx tracks were not observed at the set prior to take. (The lynx did not 'fight' the snare.)”

If killed, describe the mode of death in as much detail as possible. (A necropsy may be necessary.)

If caught in a snare or trap, what was the target animal? Fox.

If a snare, how high was the top of the snare loop from the ground? How large was the loop? What size (thickness) cable was used? Not applicable.

If caught in a trap or snare, describe the set in as much detail as possible. Include photos if available. Caught in a snare, presumably set for fox or coyote.

If the animal was released alive, was it injured? Describe how the animal was assessed for injury and who assessed the animal. Not applicable.

Winter, 2002-2003 (specific date unknown) – Lynx caught in snare, Clearwater County

Contacted both the CO and Pat Lund. The CO, Greg Spaulding, is quoted below.

How was the lynx killed, captured, or injured? Trapper reported catching a lynx in a snare in Clearwater County. Trapper's report may not have been entirely accurate. Therefore, the location and further details of this animal's death may be uncertain. DNR CO (Greg Spalding) wrote two tickets related to this incident and reported to Pat Lund (FWS-LE) that the trapper was probably targeting fox.

If killed, describe the mode of death in as much detail as possible. (A necropsy may be necessary.) "Lynx was caught in a snare. No photos. I seized after the fact. Didn't see the site. Had the snare so took info from that. Cat was caught around the neck. Cat was in the early stages of decomposition and was caught from January to late March when it was found and turned in. Who knows when it was actually killed."

If caught in a snare or trap, what was the target animal? Fox.

If a snare, how high was the top of the snare loop from the ground? How large was the loop? What size (thickness) cable was used? DNR CO indicated that the snare was set 14" off of the ground, the loop was 10" in diameter, and the cable was 5/16 inch thick.

If caught in a trap or snare, describe the set in as much detail as possible. Include photos if available.

If the animal was released alive, was it injured? Describe how the animal was assessed for injury and who assessed the animal. Not applicable.

December 28, 2003 – Lynx caught in snare, Lake or St. Louis County

How was the lynx killed, captured, or injured? The lynx was caught approximately 23 miles from Two Harbors between 3:00 p.m. on 12/27 and 7:00 a.m. on 12/28. The lynx was snared. The snare was around the cat's abdomen.

If killed, describe the mode of death in as much detail as possible. (A necropsy may be necessary.) Not applicable.

If caught in a snare or trap, what was the target animal? The trapper reported having been targeting fox/coyote.

If a snare, how high was the top of the snare loop from the ground? How large was the loop? What size (thickness) cable was used? The top of snare loop was 22" off the ground (or a little less), approximately 10" loop, approximately 1/8" cable.

If caught in a trap or snare, describe the set in as much detail as possible. Include photos if available. CO Duncan has distant, poor quality photos. Chris Burdett may have better photos.

If the animal was released alive, was it injured? Describe how the animal was assessed for injury and who assessed the animal. The lynx, which had previously been radio collared, was tranquilized, released from the snare, examined by "Master Rehaber" Gail Buhl, determined to be releasable and was then released to the wild. Chris Burdett said, "Prior to my arrival at the site, the animal had been drugged by field technicians. The animal was extracted from the snare shortly after I arrived. The snare cable was cinched extremely tight around the waist of L05 and had to be cut off the animal. After removing the animal from the snare it was noticed that his body temperature was quite low and emergency efforts had to be taken to warm the animal before it could be released. We assumed that there was no severe internal bleeding as the tip of the rectal thermometer was not marked with blood after several temperature readings had been taken. After warming and monitoring the animal's condition for about 45 minutes we placed it in a cage trap to recover further. At approximately 13:00 the animal was released from the cage and trotted away without sign of injury."

On May 18, 2007, Chris Burdett wrote: "The cat was snared at Sullivan Lake area, near the intersection of FH-11 and Highway 2. The incident happened on the same road we parked on when visiting L07 den site - the numerical designation of that road may be 407 but I'll have to check to be sure."

January 13, 2004 – Lynx caught in snare, St. Louis County

How was the lynx killed, captured, or injured? Snared around the rib cage in Normanna Township, about 15 miles north of Duluth, Minnesota.

If killed, describe the mode of death in as much detail as possible. (A necropsy may be necessary.) Not applicable.

If caught in a snare or trap, what was the target animal?

If a snare, how high was the top of the snare loop from the ground? How large was the loop? What size (thickness) cable was used?

If caught in a trap or snare, describe the set in as much detail as possible. Include photos if available.

If the animal was released alive, was it injured? Describe how the animal was assessed for injury and who assessed the animal. This 23 pound male was held overnight at the Lake Superior Zoo and then released the next day. He was fitted with a Telemetry Solutions GPS radiotelemetry collar. DNA indicated that this was the same animal captured and released on November 7, 2002 (S. Loch, pers. comm.. 2004).

October 10, 2004 – Lynx caught in snare, Lake County

How was the lynx killed, captured, or injured? Caught with snare around neck.

If killed, describe the mode of death in as much detail as possible. (A necropsy may be necessary.) Snared around neck – animal suffocated when snare cable became tangled in brush.

If caught in a snare or trap, what was the target animal? Fox.

If a snare, how high was the top of the snare loop from the ground? How large was the loop? What size (thickness) cable was used? According to the trapper, the bottom of the 6” diameter loop was 7-8” from the ground; cable was 5/64” thick

If caught in a trap or snare, describe the set in as much detail as possible. Include photos if available. Trapper stated that he set trap in a game trail in area with abundant fox and coyote tracks; he said that he typically sets snares near trees or brush so that the animals become tangled and die.

If the animal was released alive, was it injured? Describe how the animal was assessed for injury and who assessed the animal. Not applicable.

Other Information:

26 lb. Male; Caught “slightly north and east of the FR 11/Hwy. 2 intersection (R. Moen, pers. comm. 5/2005)

October 22, 2004 – Lynx killed in trap, Cook County

How was the lynx killed, captured, or injured? Caught in a leg-hold trap.

If killed, describe the mode of death in as much detail as possible. (A necropsy may be necessary.) Found dead in advanced state of decomposition with leg-hold trap on foot.

If caught in a snare or trap, what was the target animal? Red fox

If a snare, how high was the top of the snare loop from the ground? How large was the loop? What size (thickness) cable was used? n/a

If caught in a trap or snare, describe the set in as much detail as possible. Include photos if available and explain whether or not baiting was used. If baiting or scents were used, describe the methods, type of bait, scent, etc. Also describe any furbearer use of the area that was noted before the lynx was trapped.

(Steve Loch (pers. comm. 5/18/05) described it as a “...scented (no bait) “dirt hole” fox set”.

If the animal was released alive, was it injured? Describe how the animal was assessed for injury and who assessed the animal. n/a

Other information?

On 5/18/05, Steve Loch sent the following information in an email:

“On May 15, 2005, a lynx was found dead in an advanced state of decomposition in a gravel pit 10 miles NNW of Lutsen. The gravel pit is located on the Superior National Forest east of Rice Lake and west of Clara Lake; the site is approximately 125 meters west off the Clara Lake Road in T61N, R03W, Section 7, SW/NW (UTM 0667734, 5294514)

“The animal had been caught by the right front foot in a 1 3/4 coil spring jump trap attached to a 2 meter drag. The set was a scented (no bait) "dirt hole" fox set.

Trapper “indicated this trap was missing on Friday, October 22, 2004 and that he could not locate it in spite of repeated attempts over the next couple of weeks. He also indicated that on both Friday and Saturday (Oct. 22 & 23), he had searched very near the specific location where the lynx and trap were eventually found this May. He recalls thinking the trap had likely been stolen as he found no evidence of a 'drag trail' or that an animal had been taken at the set. He mentioned taking a fox in another set near this location subsequent to the incident.

“The lynx and trap were found by a dog. The folks involved then noticed the trap and radio collar. They concluded the animal was a bobcat and indicated that had it not been for the radio collar, they would have likely returned the trap to the trapper and taken no further action.

“This lynx was study animal L09.”

November 28, 2004 – Lynx caught in conibear, St. Louis County

How was the lynx killed, captured, or injured? 220 Conibear bodygrip caught animal by leg (R. Moen, University of Minnesota, pers. comm. 11/30/04; S. Loch, pers. comm.. 11/30/04).

If killed, describe the mode of death in as much detail as possible. (A necropsy may be necessary.) n/a

If caught in a snare or trap, what was the target animal? Fisher (S. Loch, pers. comm. 12/7/04).

If a snare, how high was the top of the snare loop from the ground? How large was the loop? What size (thickness) cable was used? n/a

If caught in a trap or snare, describe the set in as much detail as possible. Include photos if available. See above.

If the animal was released alive, was it injured? Describe how the animal was assessed

for injury and who assessed the animal. It is unclear whether animal was assessed for injury. According to Steve Loch (pers. comm. 12/3/04), the trapper and another person told him did not observe any sign of injury based on the way the animal walked away (“totally normal stride, no limp, and so forth”, S. Loch, pers. comm. 12/3/04).

Other information? Two COs, Dan Starr (Tower) and Mike Lekitz (Ely), were at the release site. Steve Loch collected scat from the released lynx’s trail.

January 8, 2005 – Lynx caught in snare, St. Louis County

How was the lynx killed, captured, or injured? Caught in a snare.

If killed, describe the mode of death in as much detail as possible. (A necropsy may be necessary.) Animal was released alive.

If caught in a snare or trap, what was the target animal? Coyote/red fox

If a snare, how high was the top of the snare loop from the ground? How large was the loop? What size (thickness) cable was used? “The snare was 5/64ths. The top of the loop was about fourteen inches off the snow.”

If caught in a trap or snare, describe the set in as much detail as possible. Include photos if available and explain whether or not baiting was used. If baiting or scents were used, describe the methods, type of bait, scent, etc. Also describe any furbearer use of the area that was noted before the lynx was trapped.

On 1/15/05, the trapper wrote, “The snare was set in an approach to a bait station used by foxes. Coincidentally, a red fox approached the snared lynx and quickly departed the way he'd came.”

If the animal was released alive, was it injured? Describe how the animal was assessed for injury and who assessed the animal. See *Other Information* below.

Other information?

Lynx was study animal, L25. On 1/10/05, Ron Moen provided the following information:

”L25 was snared by the same person who caught L10 last year. He caught both animals in the same place, almost 1 year apart

“Fortunately the snare was caught around the neck on the collar, which may have lessened problem. It is my understanding he was also using the relaxing snare.

“I received call about 5:45 p.m. Saturday evening, was at the animal at 6:30. We immobilized him, cut snare off, monitored temperature, pulse, respiration. He was up and ready to go at about 10:00, I kept him in pet crate until 11:00. Released him in same location where we released L10 last year.

Keith Olson (MN DNR CO), Chris Burdett, and Ron Moen were present. (R. Moen, pers. comm. 1/10/05).

November 29, 2005 – Lynx caught in conibear 120, St. Louis County

How was the lynx killed, captured, or injured? Caught in a conibear 120.

If killed, describe the mode of death in as much detail as possible. (A necropsy may be necessary.) Animal was released alive, but limping.

If caught in a snare or trap, what was the target animal? marten

If a snare, how high was the top of the snare loop from the ground? How large was the loop? What size (thickness) cable was used? Not a snare.

If caught in a trap or snare, describe the set in as much detail as possible. Include photos if available and explain whether or not baiting was used. If baiting or scents were used, describe the methods, type of bait, scent, etc. Also describe any furbearer use of the area that was noted before the lynx was trapped. No photos available. See below for further details. Dan said that he has traditionally trapped for marten in this area.

If the animal was released alive, was it injured? Describe how the animal was assessed for injury and who assessed the animal. See below.

Other information?

Lynx was a kitten, born in 2005 of a radio-collared female (L7 or L13). Adult female was present when trapper found and released kitten. As stated above, lynx was limping after being released. Trapper did not note the ear tag number. L13 had three kittens during the 2005 den visit. According to Ron Moen, L13 was observed with two kittens earlier in November, but it is uncertain whether the third kitten was dead or just not sighted at that time.

I spoke to the trapper, on November 30, 2005. This is a summary of what he told me – the conibear 120 was fitted into a box and baited with skunk lure and deer parts; the entire set was wired to a tree. When he got there he put a sleeping bag over the kitten, which growled, struggled, and hissed. Its mother then came out of the woods and walked toward them. The trapper and his partner then backed off, uncertain of what she would

do. She did not act aggressive, but yawned and walked back to her bed. He said that the kitten had three toes in the trap, appeared not to have struggled much while in the trap, and likely did not suffer any serious injuries, although he speculated that it may lose a few toes. It was raining at the time. He said that the kitten sat still for a few seconds after being let go and then walked back to its mother – they then vocalized to each other before walking away. He then removed his trap from the area.

December 28, 2005 – Lynx caught in snare, St. Louis, County

How was the lynx killed, captured, or injured? Caught in a snare.

If killed, describe the mode of death in as much detail as possible. (A necropsy may be necessary.) Strangled – animal was on the ground. (Mark Fredin, Conservation Officer, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, pers. comm. 1/25/06).

If caught in a snare or trap, what was the target animal? Fox (M. Fredin, pers. comm. 1/25/06)

If a snare, how high was the top of the snare loop from the ground? How large was the loop? What size (thickness) cable was used? According to the trapper (interviewed by Phil Delphey on 1/31/06), the loop was about 12-14” inches off the ground, set under a log to ensure that larger animals (e.g., wolves) would not be caught. Loop was 6” in diameter and constructed of 1/16” cable (‘fox cable).

If caught in a trap or snare, describe the set in as much detail as possible. Include photos if available and explain whether or not baiting was used. If baiting or scents were used, describe the methods, type of bait, scent, etc. Also describe any furbearer use of the area that was noted before the lynx was trapped. See above – trapper set some beaver carcasses about 50 feet from the snare.

If the animal was released alive, was it injured? Describe how the animal was assessed for injury and who assessed the animal. n/a

Other information?

The trapper (on 1/31/06) said that he has caught several foxes in that area in recent years, but had never seen any lynx sign and did not suspect lynx in that area.

Tom Rusch, Area Wildlife Manager (Tower Area Wildlife, 650 Hwy 169, Tower MN 55790, 218/753-2580 Ext 240) reported that Mark Fredin, Aurora CO, called in a dead lynx caught in a snare 12/28/05 near Lakeland on the St Louis River (T57 R16). It is a large, tagged male. Tag is "light tan, UNLV MN" thru the ear."

Location: 47° 27.044’ 92° 18.823’

Reported incidental take of Canada lynx by trappers in Minnesota, 2002-2006

Target Animal	No. of Lynx Captures	No. of Lynx Mortalities
Red fox ²	8	5
Unknown	1	0
Bobcat	2	0
Marten	1	0
Fisher	1	0
Total	13	5

	Trapped	Snared
Mortality	2	3
Non-Mortality	5	3

² In two of these cases, target animal was reported to be 'coyote or red fox.'