

## Warm Blooded Invaders: Understanding and Managing “Nuisance” Mammals



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### Overview

- What's a Predator?
- Understanding Predator Roles and Function
- Management Options for Native Predators
- Exotic, Invasive Mammals
  - Definitions and Management Solutions
- Exotic Hoofstock

Is This a Predator?



These?





## What About These?



## To Manage or Not To Manage?

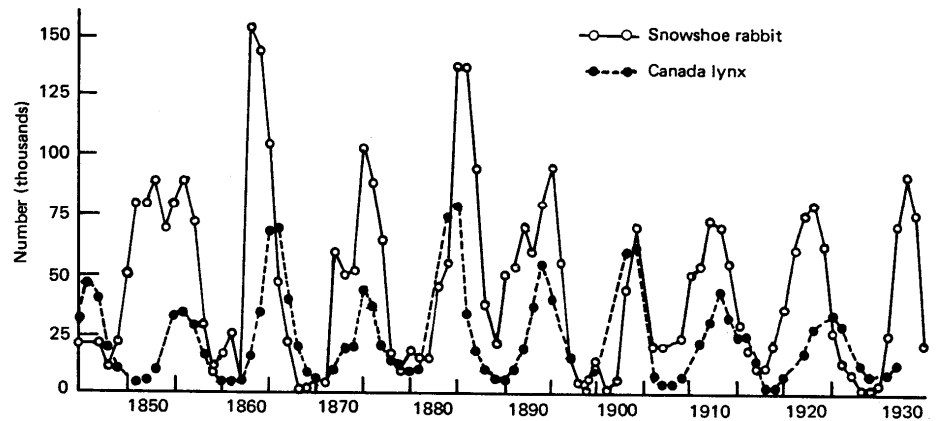


## Predator-Prey Arms Race



**Wildlife management – it's about balance.**

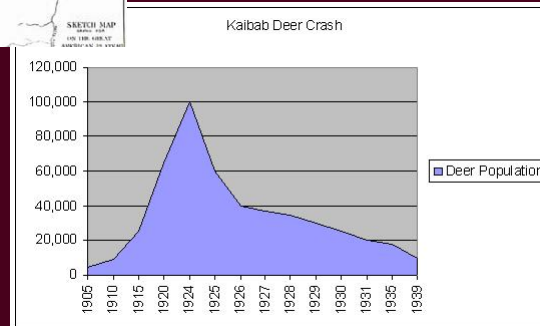
## Predator-Prey Cycles



## What Good is a Predator?

- Every part of the system has a role.
  - Value is a human judgment from each person's point of view.
  - Is it still a predator if we aren't competing with it?
- What is the benefit of predation?
  - Population Control for Wildlife
    - Improved health of remaining animals
  - Disease Management
    - Tick-borne diseases
    - Density-dependent diseases
  - "Clean up" of carcasses

## A lesson in too much of a good thing...



## Causes and Timing of Predation

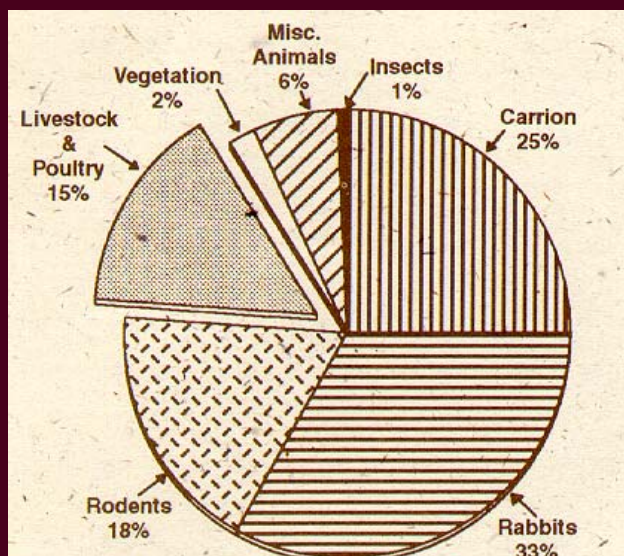
- Sometimes it seems that predation comes at the worst possible time of year and/or weather.
  - This may be chance or an evolutionary practice.
- Predation can be encouraged in 2 main ways:
  - Limited food supplies
  - Increased nutritional requirements
- What are some examples?



## Rapid Food Removal



## What About That Food?



## Rearing Young

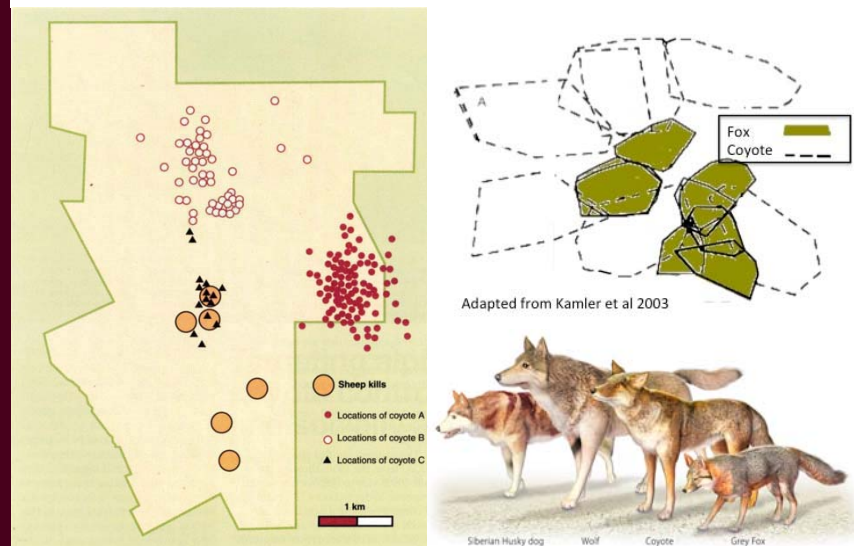


## Predator Territories

- Why Should I Care About Territories?
- Territory Marking and Maintenance
  - Urine
  - Scat
  - Scent gland rubbing
  - Other Markings
- Effects of Management on Territories
  - Using territoriality to your advantage



## Territoriality



## Native Predators

- What's a Native Predator?
  - Legal Status
- Do we need to manage?
  - Again, what's predation?
  - What are my goals?
- What can we do to inform our management?



## Predation Identification

- Why ID predation?
  - I **know** what did this.
- The reality is that we aren't always positive, but we need to confirm our suspicions. Why?
  - Ecological Effects
  - Economic Effects
- Only remove offending animals.



## Gaining More Reliable Knowledge

- Cover kill as quickly as possible.
- Species/Age/Sex/Condition of Animal
- Record scenario (photos of area too)
- Photos of:
  - Whole body
  - Any wounds (also skinned back, with scale)
  - Disposition of viscera
  - Any drags/trails

## Injurious Management Options

- Snares
- Foothold Traps
- Body-gripping Traps
- Hunting
- Aerial Shooting
- Toxicants
  - M44
  - LPC



## Non-Lethal Management Options



## Consider the Humble Swift Fox...



## Feral Animals

- What does it mean to be feral?
  - Is that the same as free-roaming livestock?
  - Where are they from?
- Problems associated with ferals.
- What is our most problematic feral?





## Exotic, Invasive Mammals



## Do Native Predators Control Wild Pigs?



## Legal Status of Wild Pigs

- What are they?
  - Free ranging livestock
- Who owns them?
  - Why, the landowner
- When can I hunt them?
  - Same rules for livestock
- Do I need a license?
- What all can I do?
  - That's a good question...



## Legal Options for Wild Pigs

- Shooting
- Trained Dogs
- Snaring
- Trapping
  - And Transport!
- Aerial Harvesting
- What's not legal?



## Exotic Hoofstock

- What is exotic hoofstock?
  - Who regulates?
  - Feral or Not?
- Problems with too much of a good thing...
- Management
  - It's all about the diet!
  - Are you high-fenced?



## Wrapping Up



Thank you. Questions?

