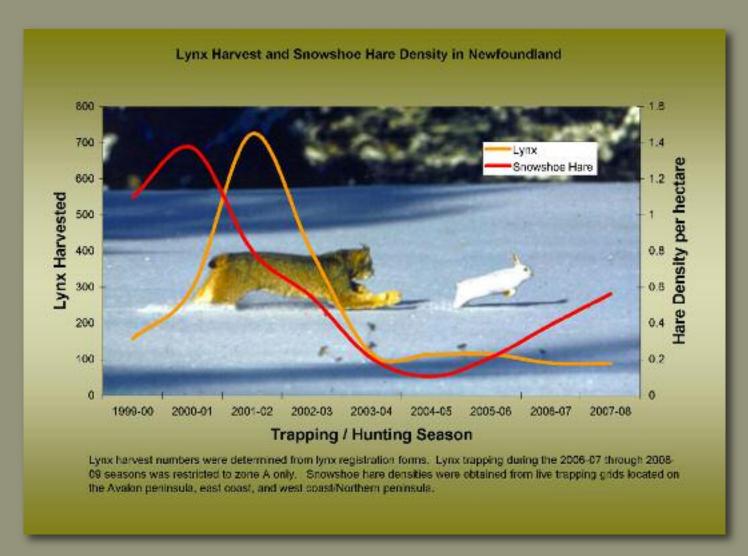
# Canadas I, yax Lynx canadensis

## Reclusive lynx follows snowshoe hares' trail

he Canada Lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) is a native felid of Newfoundland & Labrador's boreal forests. Insular Newfoundland lynx are considered by some to be a unique subspecies based on their small size, darker pelage (fur), and possible cranial differences.

The lynx is a highly specialized predator, relying on snow-shoe hare (*Lepus americanus*) as its main source of food. Snowshoe hares were introduced to insular Newfoundland between 1864 and 1876. Prior to the introduction, lynx were extremely scarce on the Island.



Snowshoe hare numbers are cyclical, and Canada lynx populations cycle along with them with a 1-2 year time lag.

Lynx population estimates and trends can be tracked by monitoring snowshoe hare numbers. Stomach content analysis also

shows that lynx eat red squirrels, voles, shrews, caribou, birds, fish, and plants.

#### A wealth of information from hunters and trappers

In order to monitor lynx populations, successful hunters and trappers are required to submit lynx carcasses to the Wildlife Division for analysis. This provides biological and ecological data that enables us to:

- track harvest trends to provide an index of abundance
- determine age distributions by analyzing teeth
- estimate lynx reproduction using placental scar counts
- determine food habits by analyzing stomach contents
- assess the physical condition and health of the animals

This research helps the Wildlife Division develop management strategies that ensure sustainable lynx populations in Newfoundland and Labrador.

For more information, visit www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/wildlife or call (709) 637-2025

Photo: Cerry Yetman

Lynx are a valuable furbearing species in Newfoundland & Labrador, but they can be highly susceptible to trapping pressure. The Wildlife Division manages lynx harvests by limiting season length and closing seasons when necessary.







#### Department of Environment

& Conservation

### Wildlife Division

Newfoundland Labrador