

house, and the male entered the water. He swam with about three inches of his neck above the water. Later the same day, at Caledonia, while exploring the shore near a saw-dust pile, we found another female that measured 25¾". The third female was taken from the beaver house at Kempt on July 20.

When seen in the field, the Eastern Ribbon Snake is at once recognized by the three wide yellow stripes, one mid-dorsal, and one on each side. The absence of spots, its slimness, and the contrasts of the white upper labials against the dark head also help to distinguish it from the Common Garter Snake, *Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*.

According to Schmidt and Davis (1941), and Pope (1946) the range of the Eastern Ribbon Snake extends northward to southern Maine. Cox (1898) did not report its occurrence in New Brunswick. In Nova Scotia it was found only in the southern part of the province. This condition of an isolated population suggests that the Eastern Ribbon Snake occurs in southern Nova Scotia as a relic species from the last mild period, some 3,000-5,000-years ago.

References: Schmidt, K. P. and D. D. Davis, 1941. Field Book of Snakes. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. Pope, C. H., 1946. Snakes Alive and How They Live. Viking Press, New York.—SHERMAN BLEAKNEY, Department of Biology, Acadia University, Wolfville, N.S.

**The Cougar in Manitoba.** — No definite record of the cougar in Manitoba appears to have been established. In one of his publications, E. T. Seton refers to a few reports of cougar having been killed, but there appears to be no final proof to date.

During the last thirty years, I have had about six sight records within the Province. Near the northerly foot of Turtle Mountain, a farmer apparently saw two cougars leap a fence in the open some fifteen years ago. One was reported, a few years later, as seen by several people near Carman and a drawing of the pug-mark was given to the Museum; it has all the appearances of belonging to a cougar. Pug-marks were apparently seen in wet mud in the spring about five years ago by the Gebauer brothers about nine miles northwest of Morris. Other reports were less definite.

Last autumn a trapper in the Sprague district reported seeing a huge cat cross a township line; it was reported elsewhere in the

same general district. Recently (March, 1951) a trapper informed a Conservation Officer that a strange animal had broken a lock snare he set for a wolf, leaving signs of blood and a violent struggle. He followed the tracks but soon lost them in the snow. The Officer is now trying to find the remains and send us the skull. The trapper thought it must have been the cougar which entered his snare.

A specimen in the Regina Museum was killed near Yorkton a few years ago.—L. T. S. NORRIS-ELYE, Manitoba Museum, Winnipeg, Man.

**The Bay Lynx in Manitoba.** — Up to the present time, there does not appear to have been any record (even a sight record) of the Bay Lynx (*Lynx rufus*) in Manitoba. Specimens have been reported as having been taken at Minaki and near Dryden in Ontario and also in Minnesota and North Dakota.

For six years I have sought the co-operation of the Provincial Game and Forestry Departments to look out for specimens in south-eastern Manitoba; I also alerted trappers in the same district.

The Director of Game and Fisheries, G. W. Malaher, through his conservation Officers, J. E. Harrison and D. J. McIntosh, received reports of a few Bay Lynx and instructed Steve Venus, a trapper, to try to secure a specimen. On March 16, 1951, Venus trapped a sub-adult female near a creek leading out of Mud Lake (Section 35-2-15 E.P.M.) and delivered it to J. E. Harrison. Instructions have been given to deliver any other specimens that may be trapped in future. It was brought to the Museum on March 29, when it weighed 9 lbs, 10 ozs. The measurements were T. l. 27¼; T.v. 4¾; H.f. 6 (all in inches).

On skinning it, porcupine quills were found in the left fore and hind feet and one had penetrated the soft palate and had reached the rear of the left eye-socket; all punctures had caused severe suppurations.

I asked the Conservation Officer to inquire from local residents when these animals were first noted; they stated that they first arrived eight years ago. There is a muskeg where the animal was taken and it harbours several varying hares; it is said that there are a few more Bay Lynx in this muskeg.

Local trappers have caught a few Bay Lynx in traps set for weasels, but they did not realize the significance of these catches and did not report them. — L. T. S. NORRIS-ELYE, Manitoba Museum, Winnipeg, Man.



Norris-Elye, L. T. S. 1951. "The cougar in Manitoba." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 65(3), 119–119. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.341336>.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/90126>

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.341336>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/341336>

#### **Holding Institution**

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

#### **Sponsored by**

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

#### **Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.