

1985  
SOUTHERN LAKES and IBEX FURBEARER  
TRACK-COUNT NOTE

Helen P. Slama  
14 February 1985

## SOUTHERN LAKES TRACK-COUNT

The survey was conducted from January 25th to February 13th, 1985. A main objective was to repeat some of the 1982 transects and survey other accessible areas for comparative analysis. The study area was in the Whitehorse-Carcross region and did not include the Ibex area.

Field work and data compilation was done by Helen Slama. Considerable field assistance was received from Dan Drummond, as well as help from Dave Ladret, Carol Domas, Cor Smits, and Les Gouch.

The data from the repeated transects was tabulated and compilations made for a comparative analysis. In the compilation of the raw data, the hare runways in 1982 were multiplied by a factor of 10, and in 1985 by a factor of 7. These multiplication factors are the number best felt to represent the amount of activity observed on the runways. Runways recorded in 1982 on the comparative transects were 163, and in 1985, the runways recorded were 20. In the winter of 1981-82, the snowshoe hare population was just crashing and their numbers would still be quite high. An observation of this fluctuation and its effect on other animal species is hoped to be achieved. Transects are plotted on 1:250,000 topographic maps.

## IBEX VALLEY TRACK-COUNTS

The survey was conducted from January 8th to January 24th, 1985, a main objective being to observe potential marten habitat for reintroduction.

Considerable use for the Southern Lakes Vegetation maps by Parks, Land Use & Planning Branch was an asset.

Field work and data compilation was done by Helen Slama. Considerable field assistance was received from Dan Drummond, as well as from Dave Ladret and Cor Smits.

The area from the Ibex River west to the Takhini River was an area that appeared potentially good marten habitat, but we were unable to survey it due to limited access.

Transects were plotted on 1:250,000 topographic maps. Snowshoe hare runways were multiplied by a factor of 7 before being tabulated.

TABLE 1: 1985 SOUTHERN LAKES TRACK-COUNTS (Not Including Ibex)

Veg Types	White Spruce		Black Spruce		Lodgepole Pine		Pine Regen		Willow Shrub Birch		Aspen		TOTAL	
	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day	Tracks	Tracks Km Day	Tracks	Tracks Km Day
Weasel	22	0.109	20	0.048	6	0.079							48	0.067
Mink	1	0.005											1	0.001
Marten	2	0.010											2	0.003
Red Fox	1	0.005	2	0.005							1	0.208	4	0.006
Coyote	20	0.099	23	0.055	3	0.040							46	0.064
Lynx			20	0.048									20	0.028
Red Squirrel	1043	5.174	1394	3.361	604	7.968	13	8.667			43	8.958	3097	4.308
Snowshoe Hare Runways	280 (3)	1.389	395 (16)	0.952	136 (4)	1.794	15 (1)	10.00	17 (0)	0.833	128 (7)	26.667	971 (31)	1.351
Mouse	35	0.174	24	0.058	1	0.013	3	2.00					63	0.088
Moose	19	0.094	10	0.024	1	0.013			4	0.196			34	0.047
Wolverine	3	0.015											3	0.004
Caribou									6	0.294			6	0.008
Grouse			16	0.039									16	0.022
Grey Jay	1	0.005											1	0.001
Dog			38	0.092			1	0.667			1	0.208	40	0.056
Porcupine							1	0.667					1	0.001
Km - Days	201.6		414.8		75.8		1.5		20.4		4.8		718.9	

TABLE 2: SOUTHERN LAKES TRACK-COUNT COMPARISONS BETWEEN YEARS

SPECIES	COMPARATIVE TRANSECTS				ALL TRANSECTS (Tracks/km-day)		
	Tracks	1982 (Tracks/km-day)	Tracks	1985 (Tracks/km-day)	1982	1983	1985
Weasel	17	0.130	24	0.049	0.078	0.063	0.067
Mink	5	0.038	0	0	0.045	0.015	0.001
Marten	11	0.084	2	0.004	0.069	0.052	0.003
Wolverine	1	0.008	3	0.006	0.004	0.033	0
Otter	1	0.008	0	0	0.004	0.002	0
Red Fox	8	0.061	2	0.004	0.067	0.025	0.006
Coyote	16	0.123	42	0.086	0.144	0.026	0.064
Wolf	13	0.100	0	0	0.144	0.061	0
Lynx	5	0.038	3	0.006	0.099	0.122	0.028
Red Squirrel	465	3.563	1576	3.229	1.374	1.128	4.308
Snowshoe Hare* Runways	1985 (163)	15.211	605 (20)	1.241	17.513	3.331	1.351
Porcupine	0	0	4	0.008	0.001	0.006	0.001
Mouse	29	0.222	68	0.139	0.200	0.138	0.088
Grouse	0	0	17	0.035	0.011	0.038	0.016
Ptarmigan	0	0	0	0	0.074	0.053	0
Moose	7	0.054	14	0.029	0.085	0.177	0.047
Caribou	0	0	0	0	0	0.050	0.008
KM-DAYS	130.5		487.3		741.1	3104.7	718.9

\* Hare Runways were converted X10 (1982, 1983) and X7 (1985).  
Number of Runways in 1982 (1053), 1983 (758). Data from Slough and Jessup (1984).

TABLE 3: IBEX AREA TRACK-COUNTS

Veg Types	Pine Regen		Deciduous Regen		White Spruce		Willow Shrub Birch		Lake Ice		Pine		TOTAL TRACKS	
	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day
Weasel	21	0.130			45	0.302	12	0.112			9	0.257	87	0.169
Mink							1	0.009					1	0.002
Fox	4	0.025			2	0.013	7	0.065	1	0.25	18	0.514	32	0.062
Coyote	10	0.619			15	0.101	4	0.037			4	0.114	33	0.064
Wolf	3	0.019	6	0.105	15	0.101	4	0.037			12	0.343	40	0.078
Lynx	1	0.006			8	0.054	2	0.019					11	0.021
Squirrel	2296	14.217	103	1.807	1710	11.476					162	4.629	4271	8.317
Snowshoe Hare Runways	1807 (141)	11.189	97 (6)	1.702	829 (22)	5.564	96 (5)	0.897			300 (6)	8.571	3129 (180)	6.093
Mouse	61	0.378	61	1.070	61	0.409					5	0.143	188	0.366
Moose	30	0.186	2	0.035	31	0.208	3	0.028			2	0.057	68	0.132
Ptarmigan					25	0.168	7	0.065	1	0.25			33	0.064
Horse							5	0.047					5	0.010
Grouse	16	0.099			1	0.007	2	0.019			20	0.571	39	0.076
Dog											7	0.2	7	0.014
Porcupine					3	0.020	1	0.009					4	0.008
Km - Days	161.5		57		149		107		4		35		513.5	

TABLE 1: 1985 SOUTHERN LAKES TRACK-COUNTS (Not Including Ibex)

Veg Types	White Spruce		Black Spruce		Lodgepole Pine		Pine Regen		Willow Shrub Birch		Aspen		TOTAL	
	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day
Weasel	22	0.109	20	0.048	6	0.079							48	0.067
Mink	1	0.005											1	0.001
Marten	2	0.010											2	0.003
Red Fox	1	0.005	2	0.005							1	0.208	4	0.006
Coyote	20	0.099	23	0.055	3	0.040							46	0.064
Lynx			20	0.048									20	0.028
Red Squirrel	1043	5.174	1394	3.361	604	7.968	13	8.667			43	8.958	3097	4.308
Snowshoe Hare Runways	280 (3)	1.389	395 (16)	0.952	136 (4)	1.794	15 (1)	10.00	17 (0)	0.833	128 (7)	26.667	971 (31)	1.351
Mouse	35	0.174	24	0.058	1	0.013	3	2.00					63	0.088
Moose	19	0.094	10	0.024	1	0.013			4	0.196			34	0.047
Wolverine	3	0.015											3	0.004
Caribou									6	0.294			6	0.008
Grouse			16	0.039									16	0.022
Grey Jay	1	0.005											1	0.001
Dog			38	0.092			1	0.667			1	0.208	40	0.056
Porcupine							1	0.667					1	0.001
Km - Days	201.6		414.8		75.8		1.5		20.4		4.8		718.9	

TABLE 3: IBEX AREA TRACK-COUNTS

Veg Types	Pine Regen		Deciduous Regen		White Spruce		Willow Shrub Birch		Lake Ice		Pine		TOTAL TRACKS	
	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day	Tracks	Tracks/ Km Day
Weasel	21	0.130			45	0.302	12	0.112			9	0.257	87	0.169
Mink							1	0.009					1	0.002
Fox	4	0.025			2	0.013	7	0.065	1	0.25	18	0.514	32	0.062
Coyote	10	0.619			15	0.101	4	0.037			4	0.114	33	0.064
Wolf	3	0.019	6	0.105	15	0.101	4	0.037			12	0.343	40	0.078
Lynx	1	0.006			8	0.054	2	0.019					11	0.021
Squirrel	2296	14.217	103	1.807	1710	11.476					162	4.629	4271	8.317
Snowshoe Hare Runways	1807 (141)	11.189	97 (6)	1.702	829 (22)	5.564	96 (5)	0.897			300 (6)	8.571	3129 (180)	6.093
Mouse	61	0.378	61	1.070	61	0.409					5	0.143	188	0.366
Moose	30	0.186	2	0.035	31	0.208	3	0.028			2	0.057	68	0.132
Ptarmigan					25	0.168	7	0.065	1	0.25			33	0.064
Horse							5	0.047					5	0.010
Grouse	16	0.099			1	0.007	2	0.019			20	0.571	39	0.076
Dog											7	0.2	7	0.014
Porcupine					3	0.020	1	0.009					4	0.008
Km - Days	161.5		57		149		107		4		35		513.5	



TABLE 2: SOUTHERN LAKES TRACK-COUNT COMPARISONS BETWEEN YEARS

SPECIES	COMPARATIVE TRANSECTS				ALL TRANSECTS (Tracks/km-day)		
	1982 Tracks	1982 (Tracks/km-day)	1985 Tracks	1985 (Tracks/km-day)	1982	1983	1985
Weasel	17	0.130	24	0.049	0.078	0.063	0.067
Mink	5	0.038	0	0	0.045	0.015	0.001
Marten	11	0.084	2	0.004	0.069	0.052	0.003
Wolverine	1	0.008	3	0.006	0.004	0.033	0
Otter	1	0.008	0	0	0.004	0.002	0
Red Fox	8	0.061	2	0.004	0.067	0.025	0.006
Coyote	16	0.123	42	0.086	0.144	0.026	0.064
Wolf	13	0.100	0	0	0.144	0.061	0
Lynx	5	0.038	3	0.006	0.099	0.122	0.028
Red Squirrel	465	3.563	1576	3.229	1.374	1.128	4.308
Snowshoe Hare* Runways	1985 (163)	15.211	605 (20)	1.241	17.513	3.331	1.351
Porcupine	0	0	4	0.008	0.001	0.006	0.001
Mouse	29	0.222	68	0.139	0.200	0.138	0.088
Grouse	0	0	17	0.035	0.011	0.038	0.016
Ptarmigan	0	0	0	0	0.074	0.053	0
Moose	7	0.054	14	0.029	0.085	0.177	0.047
Caribou	0	0	0	0	0	0.050	0.008
KM-DAYS	130.5		487.3		741.1	3104.7	718.9

\* Hare Runways were converted X10 (1982, 1983) and X7 (1985).

Number of Runways in 1982 (1053), 1983 (758). Data from Slough and Jessup (1984).