

MARCH 15 - 31, 2018 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES FOR EASTVIEW

By Dick Harlow

CANADA LYNX



Canada Lynx, *Lynx canadensis*
© White Mt National Forest

The above picture was taken February 27, 2018 at 09:29 in the morning in the White Mountain National Forest by a trail cam viewing a snow depth pole. My daughter sent me the picture from the Forest Service.

The cropped close-up shows a better image of a beautiful adult Canada Lynx, *Lynx Canadensis*, with its large paws that act like snowshoes walking casually by the snow pole. The Canada Lynx is a predatory specialist feeding on Snowshoe Hare when these rodents are available. Otherwise, Eastern Cottontail, Red Squirrel or other rodents on the menu. It is primarily a forest dweller and its population numbers are dependent on its food supply.

It was thought until recently that although a lynx might walk through our area none had been recently documented. See the following quoted information from Vermont. It is felt if Lynx roam in New Hampshire, then there is a very good possibility they could be found in the northern Green Mountains.



Canada Lynx, *Lynx canadensis*
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According to the US Forest Service in Vermont: "The year (2016) has brought exciting insight into the distribution of Canada Lynx in the Green Mountain State. Having predominately only been observed in the Northeastern-most portion of the state, biologists now have two compelling pieces of evidence to suggest this federally listed species is roaming the wilderness of southern Vermont.

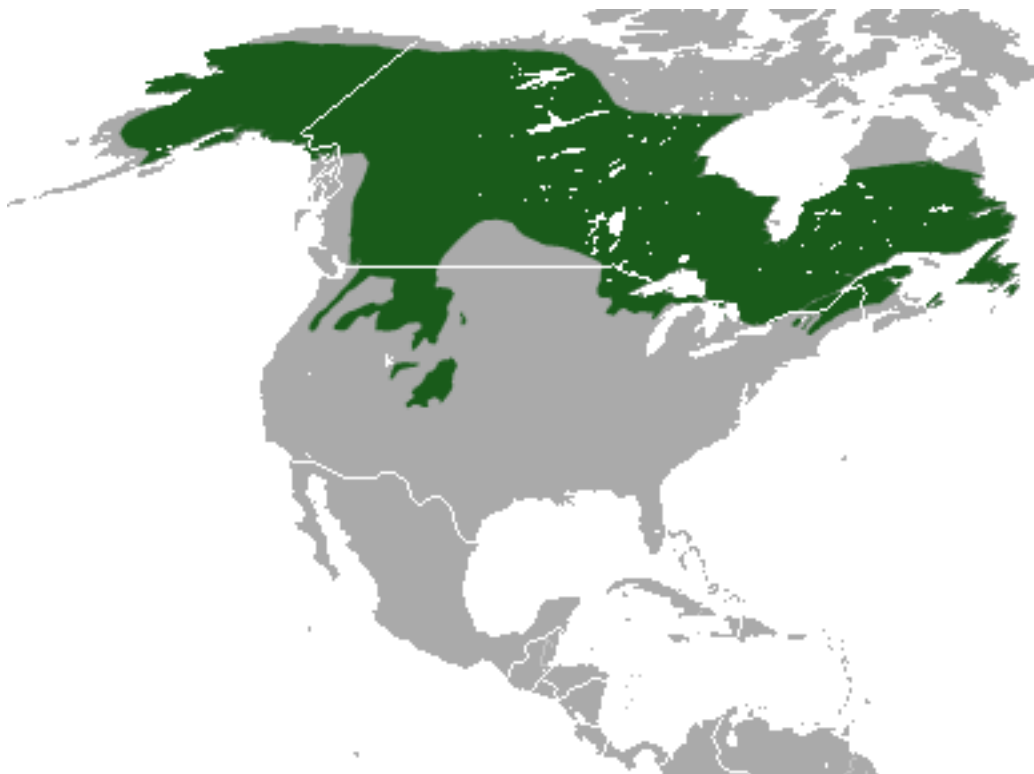


Canada lynx range © Wikipedia

"This state-endangered Canada lynx was photographed in Londonderry this past summer. Photo from Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department"

"This past June, the Canada lynx was photographed outside a rural home in Londonderry, Vermont, marking it [the first confirmed evidence](#) of lynx in Vermont outside the Northeast Kingdom in decades. Just recently, a second photograph emerged that biologists suspect is also a lynx in the nearby town of Searsburg, Vermont."

"A photo of poor quality taken with a Trail Cam was discovered by a University of Vermont student who was using Trail Cams to document bear movement across Route 9 in Searsburg, VT. While reviewing photos collected during the project, the student found a photo showing a "wildcat" passing under Route 9. The photograph was taken at a wildlife underpass created in partnership with the [Staying Connected Initiative](#) by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department and VTrans."



Canada Lynx natural range

SUGAR MAPLE



Sugar Maple, *Acer saccharum* © Wikipedia

Sugar Maple, *Acer saccharum*, in the Spring and Summer looks like many other trees. However, in the Fall it is a beautiful, colorful deciduous tree. This tree is between 60-80 feet tall and can reach heights of over 100 feet. Fall colors of the sugar maple can certainly be spectacular. According to references a healthy tree can live to over 400 years.

The month of March is traditionally the time of year when the sap of the Sugar Maple trees starts running, and the sap is then boiled down to form maple syrup. Of course, with a warming climate the temperatures so important to the farming of maple syrup can be a problem. Above freezing temperatures during the day and below freezing temperatures during the night are the key to maximum syrup production.

There is one tree that looks similar to a Sugar Maple, which was introduced to North America as a tree that will grow well in cities as well as city suburbs and is called Norway Maple. The way to tell the two apart is from the sap that is found in the leaf petiole (stem of the leaf). Sugar Maple is clear, Norway Maple is white.

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Sugar Maple, *Acer saccharum* © Dick Harlow

Acer saccharum



Natural range of Sugar Maple,
Acer saccharum. © Wikipedia.org

OBSERVATIONS

MAMMALS

Red Fox (scrawny tail)
Eastern Cottontail Rabbit

**Weather Tidbits 15-31 March 2018
Month of MARCH**

[All Measurements taken at solar noon \(1230 EST\).](#)

PRECIPITATION

Total Precipitation: 24.0 mm or 0.9 inch

DAYS OF CLOUD COVER - MARCH

**CLEAR - 7
PARTLY CLOUDY - 6
MOSTLY CLOUDY - 1
OVERCAST - 17**