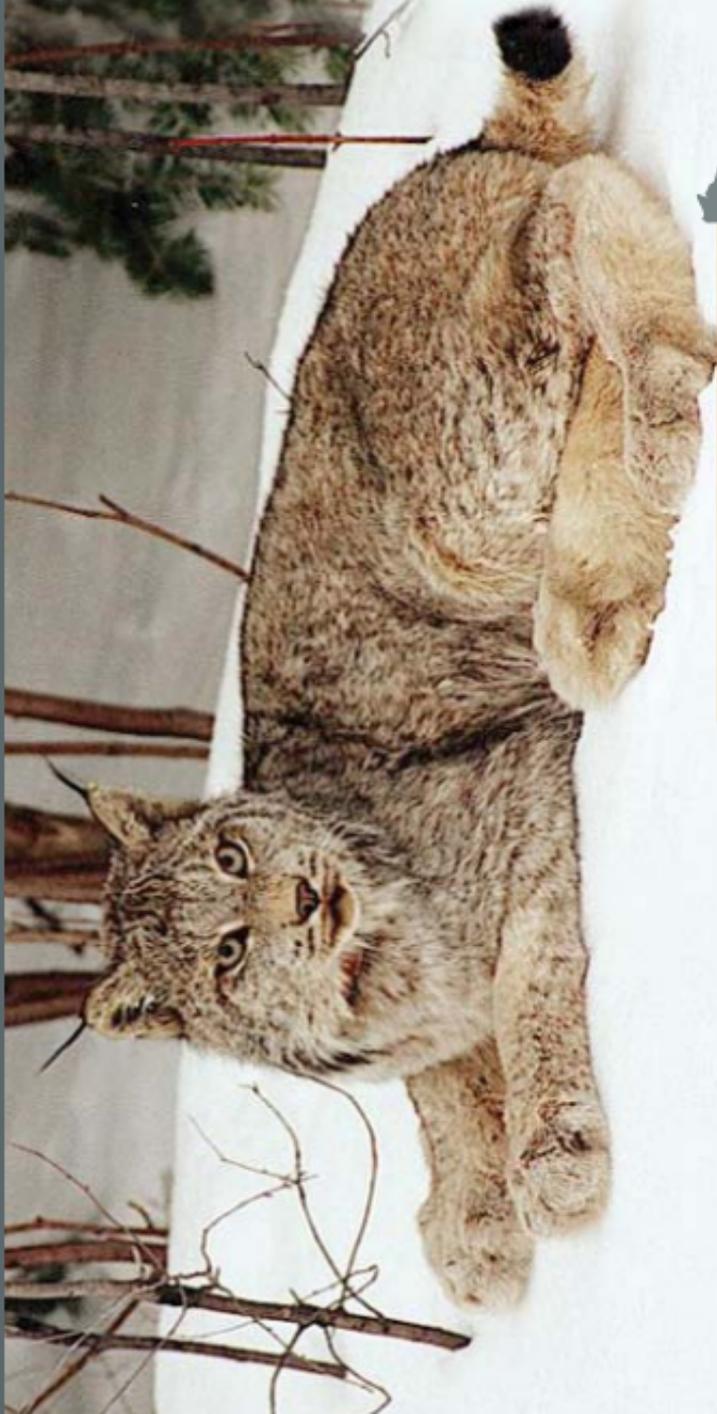


WISCONSIN WILDCARDS



RARE MAMMALS



CANADA LYNX

Felis lynx

BASIC ID: The lynx weighs from 15 to 30 pounds; has long ear tufts; huge, snowshoe-like feet; and a short, black-tipped tail (compare with bobcat's tail).

HABITS: Lynx are rare visitors to our state from Canada. They prefer diverse forests with shrubby openings. Lynx hunt well in deep snow and eat snowshoe hares.

HISTORY: Old fur trade company records indicate that lynx follow a distinct population cycle. When hare populations crash, lynx numbers follow suit and crash one to two years later. Lynx are a federally threatened species and protected by Wisconsin law.

WILD! Scientists think that Wisconsin's lynx population originated from two different migrations of the Asian lynx 20,000 years ago!

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/eeek/critter/mammal/lynx/htm>

Photo: J. Vashon, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife



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