

NH cougar sightings/tracks by County

Theory

Cougars have been here right along, but recently are increasing in numbers. Most are sighted in SW NH. This is not because of a greater number of cougars, but a greater number of people to sight them. In the north, there are few people, (White Mountain National Forest), but probably many more cougars. Cougars are now also moving to the SE which seems to indicate that prime territories (with few people) are taken. Cougars seem to survive in most habitats where deer survive. They probably have followed the rivers south (CT, Asheulot & Merrimack) since the heaviest sightings are west & central. The oldest sightings are in the north & west along the Connecticut & Asheulot river valleys, but both have rugged mountainous areas, too. The most recent sightings (2010) may indicate that cougars are also heading north from the Quabbin Reservoir area just across the MA border. Melanistic cougars are thought not to exist, but black panthers were here in pioneer days & seem to be here in small numbers. It would be nice to know what they are.

Unknown NH Locations

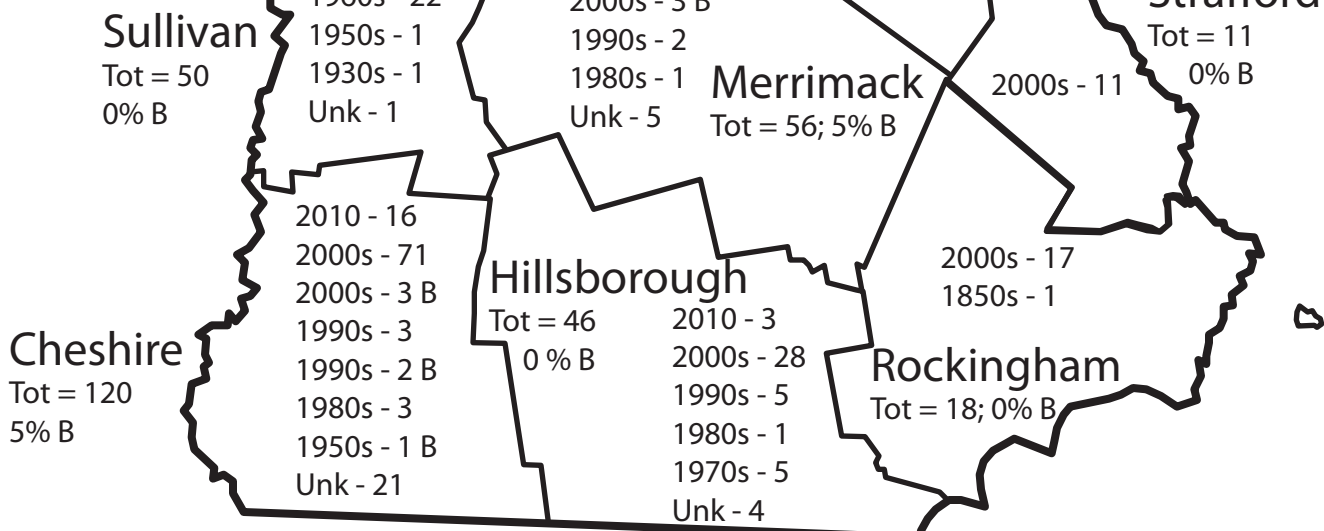
2009 - Dead cougar
 2005 - 2 (Mother & kitten)
 2000 - 1 cougar
 1940s - Multiple sightings
 Unknown - 2 killed by trapper
 Unknown - 5 seen

KEY

B = Black or Charcoal color
 Tot = Total
 Unk = Unknown date
 Unknown = Unknown location

Totals by Date

2010 - 21
 2000s - 279 (7 B of Tot; 3%)
 1990s - 27 (3 B of Tot; 1%)
 1980s - 12 (1 B of Tot; 8%)
 1970s - 12 (1 B of Tot; 8%)
 1960s - 25 (1 B of Tot; 4%)
 1950s - 2 (1 B of Tot; 50%)
 1940s - 2
 1930s - 3 (2 B of Tot; 66%)
 1850s - 1
 Unk - 72



Coos
 Tot = 57
 9% B

2000s - 24
 2000s - 1 B
 1990s - 4
 1980s - 6
 1980s - 1 B
 1970s - 5
 1970s - 1 B
 1960s - 1
 1960s - 1 B
 1940s - 1
 1930s - 1 B
 Unk - 11

2010 - 1
 2000s - 28
 1990s - 2
 1990s - 1 B
 1980s - 1
 Unk - 3

2000s - 25
 1990s - 4
 1970s - 1
 1960s - 1
 Unk - 20

Grafton
 Tot = 36
 3% B

Carroll
 Tot = 51
 0% B

2000s - 15
Belknap
 Tot = 15
 0% B

2000s - 45
 2000s - 3 B
 1990s - 2
 1980s - 1
 Unk - 5

Merrimack
 Tot = 56; 5% B

2010 - 2
 2000s - 19
 1990s - 4
 1960s - 22
 1950s - 1
 1930s - 1
 Unk - 1

Sullivan
 Tot = 50
 0% B

Strafford
 Tot = 11
 0% B

2010 - 16
 2000s - 71
 2000s - 3 B
 1990s - 3
 1990s - 2 B
 1980s - 3
 1950s - 1 B
 Unk - 21

Hillsborough
 Tot = 46
 0% B

2000s - 17
 1850s - 1

Cheshire
 Tot = 120
 5% B

2010 - 3
 2000s - 28
 1990s - 5
 1980s - 1
 1970s - 5
 Unk - 4

Rockingham
 Tot = 18; 0% B