

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH NOTES



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	Title: 2018 Annual Bobcat Mortality	

INTRODUCTION

Since the late 1980s, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) has recorded annual bobcat mortalities reported to and confirmed by Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR). These reports are used to inexpensively collect biological and distributional data for bobcat in Indiana.

METHODS

Correspondence is sent annually to DNR law enforcement and wildlife personnel requesting reports of bobcat mortalities including animals road-killed, incidentally trapped, or killed by other causes. Decisions on what carcasses to salvage are made annually. Occasionally, the public also reports dead bobcats by contacting staff or submitting a bobcat report to the online Large Mammal Report form.

Data is collected for each bobcat, including date, county, location, and other information as available. Salvaged bobcats are tagged and biological samples are collected including a canine tooth and reproductive tracts from female animals.

RESULTS

In 2018, a total of 50 bobcat mortalities was confirmed from 22 Indiana counties. The 2018 total was similar to the 2017 total mortalities (Figure 1). A total of 45 bobcats were road-killed, 3 were incidentally trapped or snared, one was found emaciated, and one bobcat died of unknown causes (Figure 2). In 2018, bobcat mortalities were most reported during February ($n = 7$) and December ($n = 11$). Since the 1980s, the majority of bobcat mortalities are reported in late fall and winter (Figure 3). Knox and Dubois Counties had the highest reported mortalities at 7 each. Since the 1990s, bobcat mortalities come most frequently in southern Indiana (Figure 4), with most bobcats being reported from western counties in 2018 (Figure 5). This could be due to robust bobcat populations in that area, increased diligence in staff reporting from those areas, or a combination of both.



Acknowledgment is due to all DNR law enforcement and wildlife personnel for their continued collaboration in collecting this valuable data.

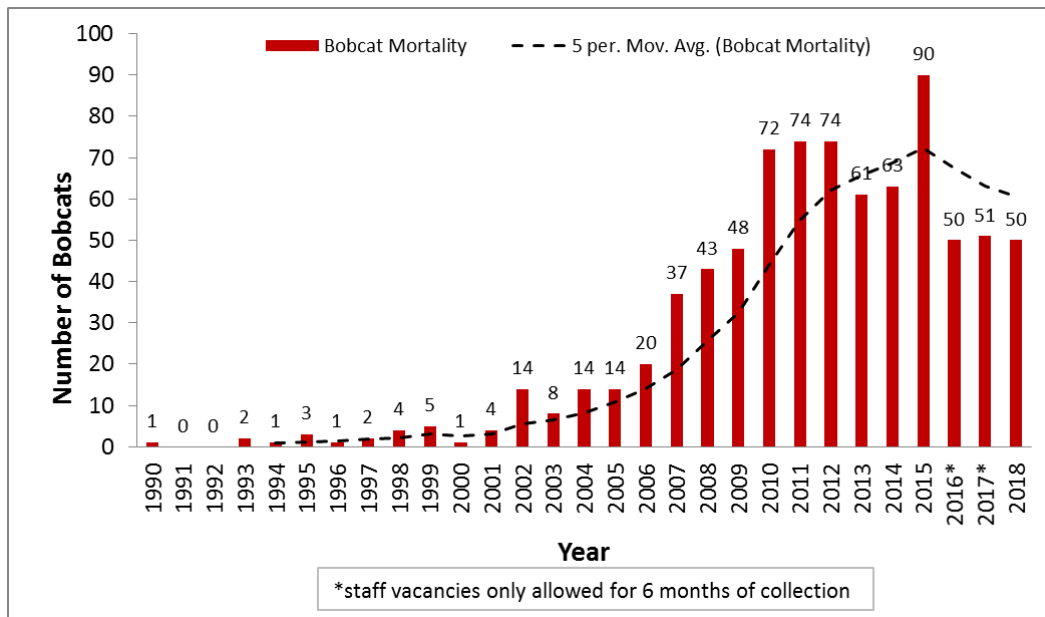


Figure 1. Confirmed bobcat mortalities in Indiana and five year average of bobcat mortalities, 1990–2018.

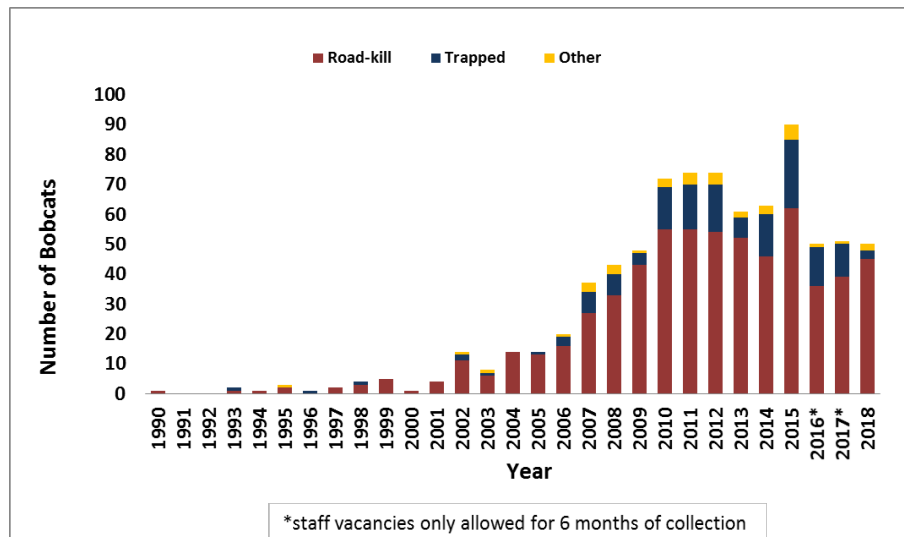


Figure 2. Cause of bobcat mortalities in Indiana, 1990–2018.

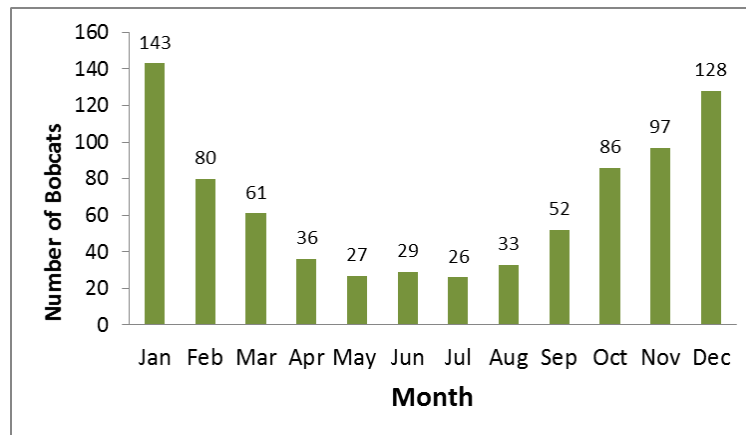


Figure 3. Monthly distribution of confirmed bobcat mortalities in Indiana, 1990–2018.

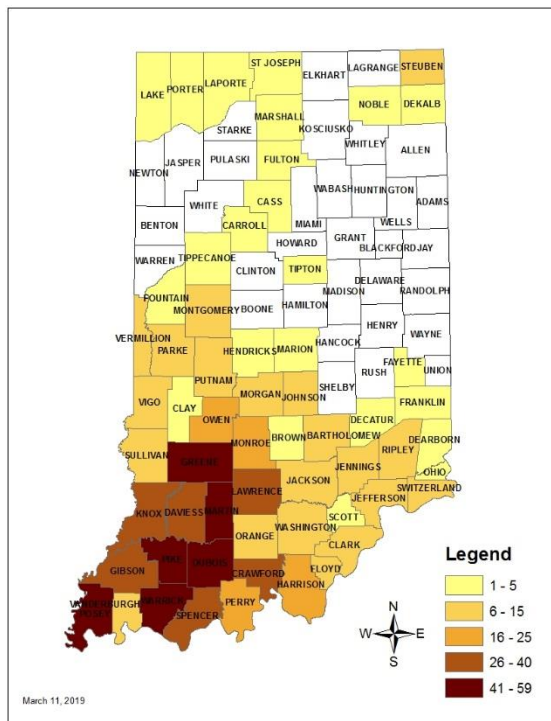


Figure 4. Distribution of confirmed bobcat mortalities ($n = 806$) in Indiana, 1990–2018.

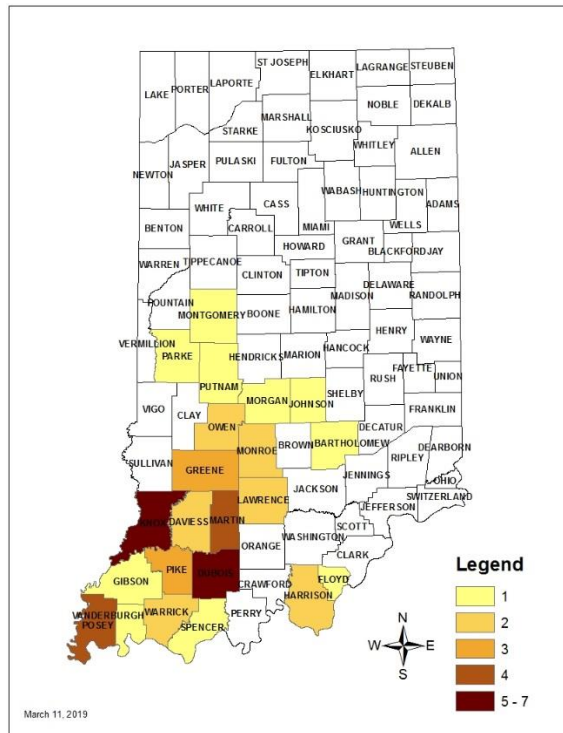


Figure 5. Distribution of bobcat mortalities reported during 2018 ($n = 50$).

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