

Sweden

2019 - 2020

Introduction

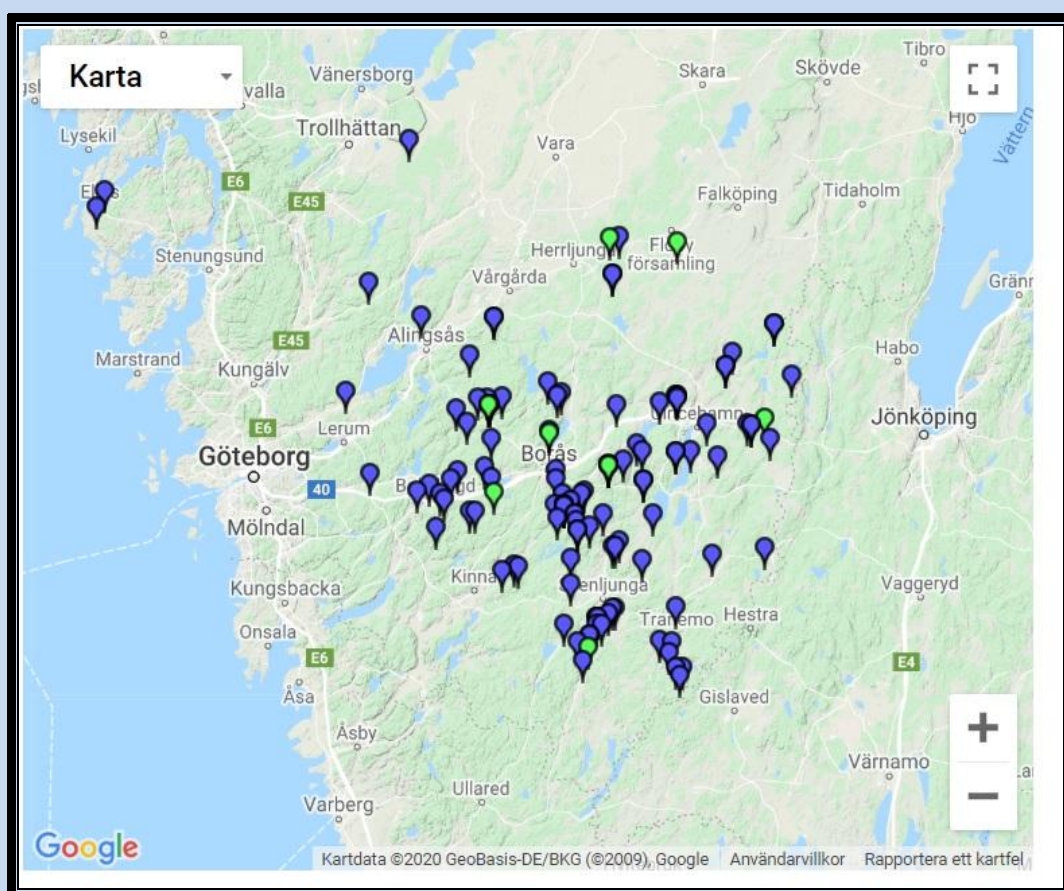
Sometimes you really forget that you have wildlife more or less just outside your door. I was one of them...

Last year I started to search for Eurasian Lynx as a part of getting all the feline species in my camera and like many others I looked at Romania, Poland, Estonia... and started sending E-mails to guides and operators.

But then, like a lightning from a clear sky it hit me – I have a good Lynx population just about 100km from my hometown Gothenburg, why don't start a spotlighting project here and see if I can find one.

We have a reporting system in Sweden where everybody can report a predator sighting (Lynx, Bear, Wolf, Wolverine) so that the authorities can estimate the numbers and then kill them thru trophy hunting. It's a sad story and I am ashamed of being a Swedish for this.

Anyhow, this could potentially help me finding this Lynx and I narrowed down an area with potentially good habitat and a lot of sightings during the years and started searching.



This is the reporting system map I used to narrow down an area for the search. All this are Lynx sightings the last 1 ½ year.

I have been out 12 times until today. Last winter/spring (2019) and this winter/spring 2020. Mostly between midnight and 06:00 and this is what I found...

My species list

1. Eurasian Lynx --- Already on my 6th drive I found a large male at around 04:30 in the morning. I could watch him for about 5 minutes on the road. He posed perfectly for me but it wasn't easy to drive, spotlight and photograph at the same time... a totally mess 😊

But I got something at the end. This is the only Lynx I have seen during my 12 drives so far but still searching for my second...



2. Red fox --- Seen on 92% of my drives. Just one or two almost every night.



3. Roe deer --- Seen 100% of my drives. They are everywhere.



4. European hare --- Seen 100% of my drives. I always get amazed about the numbers of Hares in this part of Sweden. Must be like a Smorgosbord for the Lynx.



5. Red deer --- Seen on 67% of my drives. Not at all as common as the Roe deer but you bump into them fairly often.



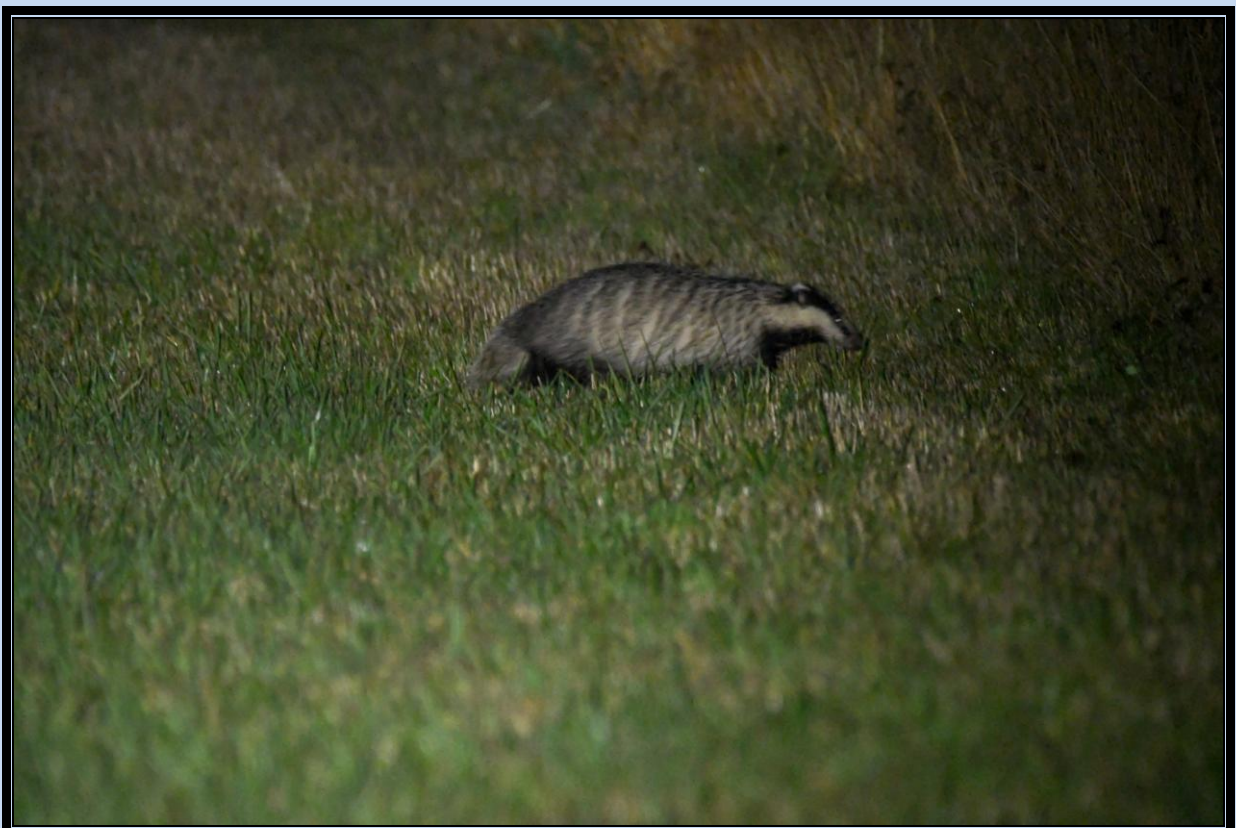
6. Moose --- Seen on 83% of my drives. One night I did see +30 of them in one single night! And other nights only one or none. Very different from time to time.



7. Wild boar --- Seen on 75% of my drives. Heavily hunted and very skittish.



8. Eurasian badger --- Seen on 33% of my drives. As they are hibernating in the winter you obviously only see them in spring.



9. European polecat --- Seen 8% of my drives. One time only.

10. European pine marten --- Seen 8% of my drives. One time only.

11. Wood mouse --- Seen 17% of my drives when they running quickly across the road.

12. Bank vole --- Seen 8% of my drives. One time only.

13. Brown rat --- Seen 8% of my drives. One time only.

As a “Bonus” mammal and not from this Lynx project but from the middle part of Sweden I easily got a **Brown bear** on the first evening looking for them. There is a VERY healthy population of Brown bear this days in middle Sweden. But as other predators we culling the numbers down at the moment.



Stuff I missed

Nothing as my goal with this project was to find a Eurasian Lynx, which I did more easy than I thought and more close to my home than I thought as well 😊

This make it 25 feline species for me until today, of which 24 is in my camera. Only missing Snow Leopard which is easy to fix.



Lynx crossing the road as I followed it for 5 minutes

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