



Furbearer Management News

2003



All Chairs Face North - Fisher Management In New York

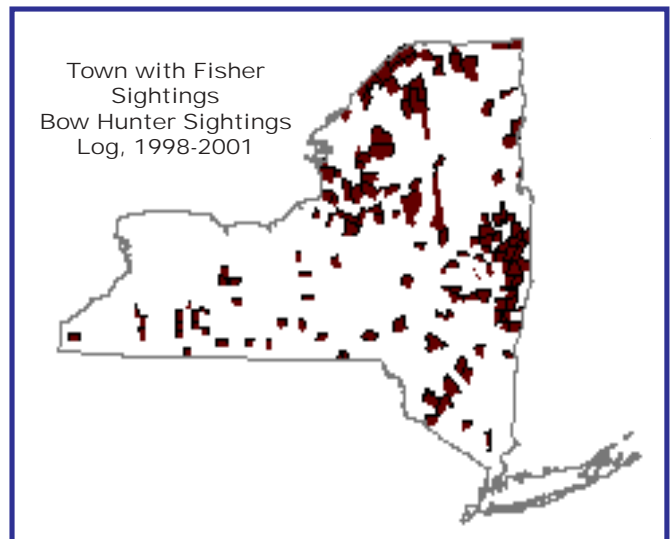
by
Robert F. Gotie
Region 7-Cortland

A few days ago, while I was doing an autopsy of a fisher killed on the road near New Berlin, Chenango County, my mind wandered back, as it is prone to do when you get past your 55th birthday, to the early 1970s when I first began my employment with DEC. At the time, I was working out of the Watertown Office of Region 6 and assigned part time to furbearer issues. There were very few management or research projects and besides pelt sealing, only beaver and muskrat surveys were regularly done. Fisher management consisted of a 67 day season in the Northern Zone accompanied by pelt sealing, performed mainly by Environmental Conservation Officers. This way of managing fisher remained the standard fare from the first season held in 1949 until the mid 1970s.

In the spring of 1973 I attended a meeting between the Regional Game Managers and biologists from northern New York to discuss trapping seasons. The three biologists (Gary Will, Mark Brown and me) accompanying the managers, being fresh out of college and bright eyed and bushy-tailed, immediately saw the need to look deeper into the biology of this species. The outcome of this meeting was decision to start a multi-region

fisher study. Fisher management in northern New York took a giant step forward over the next decade.

Information on sex, age and reproduction was gathered. A fisher trap and transfer project (led by Bruce Penrod, now of Region 8) between 1976 and 1979 re-established a small population in the Catskill mountains by the mid 1980s. The first



population model, analyzed a mountain of biological data on this species and brought stability to the regulations on both fisher and marten in northern NY, to name just a few. Although we made great strides in fisher management, including the Catskill trap and transfer project, relatively little has been done since to manage fisher outside of the Northern Zone, where fisher have long found a stronghold.

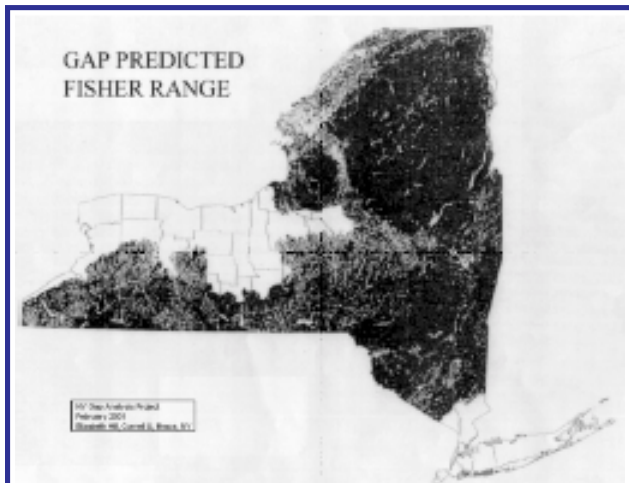
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As I write this article, I have just learned that we recovered another fisher specimen near Bridgeport, north of Syracuse but south of Oneida Lake. This is an area of the State that has long been considered unsuitable as fisher habitat. We had long considered northern New York as having the only suitable fisher habitat; indeed, our “chairs were pointing north” for many years. That is until now, which brings me to the point of this article.

A contemporary evaluation of satellite imagery showing cover types was recently completed at Cornell University, and used to predict the distribution of fisher in New York. Using this, we predicted the distribution of fisher. Conservatively, this area amounts to about 36 thousand square miles, of land and clearly shows tens of thousands of square miles of land in eastern, central and western New York as suitable fisher habitat. My best estimate of the area where fisher populations are actually secure is about 16 thousand square miles, nearly all in northern NY and the northern Taconic Highlands. The remaining



22 thousand square miles represents potential habitat where fisher could return. The fact that we are beginning to recover fisher specimens from our roads in central New York and to receive observation reports from bowhunters from the Hudson River to Lake Erie, like those depicted above, confirm that fisher are slowly returning to

southern New York. In other words, it's time to turn the chairs southward and begin managing fisher throughout New York. How do we do that and what will it cost me, are questions that trappers routinely ask when the DEC looks differently at long standing traditional programs.

Biologists on the statewide Furbearer Management Team have asked themselves these same questions over the last five years. We have agreed on a goal and three objectives. For the first time, however, our goal reflects the reality of potential fisher habitat throughout the State. It asserts the following: Manage for the Existence of Fisher Throughout New York State Where Suitable Habitat Exists. Likewise, objectives set to meet this goal are (1) Meet predetermined annual harvest levels in WMUs where population existence is secure, (2) Promote the expansion of fisher into WMUs with suitable habitats, and (3) Develop methods to reduce the incidental catch of fisher. Program actions designed to accomplish these objectives will be the real meat of any management plan for fisher and to quote William Shakespeare from Hamlet "...ay, there's the rub..." because this is where the true costs will be borne by trappers.

Undoubtedly, to meet these objectives major changes in our harvest regulations will need to be made. A good example of a potential change to accomplish Objective 1 and 2 would be a complete overhaul of the existing bag limit on fisher. Currently, there is unlimited taking allowed during the season by individual trappers. As such, the annual harvest resembles a roller coaster, rather than a planned harvest of an annual surplus. Bag limits and an annual quota system, like that used in Wisconsin, would stabilize the harvest in areas where populations are secure and eliminate the sizable ups and downs we see today.

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The cost of a change in bag limits would most likely be felt by those taking more than the average annual harvest per trapper. For the last ten years 75% of fisher trappers took less than 4 fisher per trapper. On the other hand about 25% of the trappers took nearly 65% of the entire annual harvest. This translates to 68 trappers taking about 2/3rds of the harvest each year. If bag limits were set, the annual number of fisher pelts ending up on the stretchers of these trappers would be reduced. While this would mean a sacrifice for some, there may be a greater gain for the majority of trappers.

A fundamental change in our contemporary harvest system will result in a greater surplus of surviving animals that would serve to repopulate potential fisher habitat south of the Northern Zone WMUs. Fisher populations will more rapidly expand their range south/westward and become secure enough to support an annual trapping season in a shorter period of time. However, if we do nothing now to promote range expansion, I assure you that those of my generation living in central New York will never see in their lifetimes a fisher trapping season in their backyards. There just won't be enough fisher in WMUs like the Tug Hill and the southern Adirondacks to act efficiently as a source for the expansion of fisher.

As we enter the first decade of the 21st Century, there are new opportunities on the horizon for trappers south of the Northern Zone. The important question for trappers who presently enjoy the fisher abundance in northern New York remains: Are you willing to embrace the sacrifice necessary to make these opportunities happen over the next decade? We would like to hear from you and the trappers in southern NY. Should a new approach to fisher management be on the agenda for the DEC? Let us know what you think, whether pro or con. Ultimately, the re-establishment of fisher throughout New York will require a firm commitment by trappers. It will also require that DEC manage fisher on a statewide ba-

sis, and not to simply "face the chairs north." If you have comments on this, please write us at the address shown on this newsletter, or e-mail us at fwwildlf@gw.dec.state.ny.us. Please put the words "fisher management" in the subject line in your e-mail. Thank you.

A New York Furbearer Profile— the Pine Marten

*by Mark Brown
Region 5-Warrensburg*

The pine marten, also referred to as the American marten is one of the 13 furbearers of northern New York. A member of the weasel family, the marten, is similar in size to the mink but has longer, fluffier fur, longer legs, a bushier tail and more prominent ears. The soft rich fur varies in color for each individual marten from dark brown almost black to a pale orange color. One distinguishing feature of the marten is the buff or yellowish orange patch on the throat.

This nocturnal furbearer has semi-retractable claws like a cat so it is well adapted for tree climbing. The marten is not a fussy eater and will consume small mammals (such as shrews, red squirrels, moles, and mice), insects, fruits and berries, birds and bird eggs, all depending upon season and availability.

In northern New York, the marten has been observed in many habitat types such as mixed forests, spruce-fir forests, lumbered and burned over areas as well as around seasonal camps, lean-tos and campsites, especially in the High Peaks area.

The marten has expanded its range in northern New York in the past two decades as evidenced by reports from trappers, naturalists, Environmental Conservation Officers, Forest Rangers, and Bureau of Wildlife personnel. Presently the primary range of this furbearer is approximately 2,500 square miles in Hamilton, Herkimer, St. Lawrence, Essex and Warren counties.

A limited trapping season on marten was opened in 1978. Twenty-nine trappers took 46 marten. Except for a closure on fisher and marten trapping in 1983 and 1984, marten have been harvested annually since 1978. Harvests have ranged from a low of 11 (1994) to a record high of 225 (2001). Biological and trapping data is being ana-

lyzed annually to determine the status and future of this unique furbearer.

Trappers are reminded they must obtain a special permit from the Ray Brook or Warrensburg Wildlife office to trap pine marten in the open area (WMUs 5F, 5H and 6J). The 2003 trapping season will be October 25-December 10 with a season limit of 6 marten per trapper. All marten must also be pelt sealed by December 20, 2003.

**New York State D.E.C.
Historic Furbearer Database
Statewide Harvest
1958—2001**

YEAR	SPECIES					
	Beaver	Bobcat	Coyote	Fisher	Otter	Marten
1958	7,039	*	*	192	228	closed
1959	n/a	*	*	425	311	closed
1960	n/a	*	*	6	387	closed
1961	n/a	*	*	413	174	closed
1962	n/a	*	*	201	176	closed
1963	n/a	*	*	306	211	closed
1964	n/a	*	*	359	318	closed
1965	2,638	*	*	487	244	closed
1966	5,081	*	*	564	248	closed
1967	6,720	*	*	322	256	closed
1968	6,356	*	*	907	255	closed
1969	4,863	*	*	953	263	closed
1970	2,840	*	*	916	171	closed
1971	5,647	*	*	869	318	closed
1972	12,419	*	*	1,008	412	closed
1973	7,498	*	*	1,277	395	closed
1974	8,147	*	*	1,210	495	closed
1975	10,439	*	*	1,686	533	closed
1976	12,180	*	*	839	641	closed
1977	6,636	89	*	closed	507	closed
1978	12,336	173	*	1,380	714	46
1979	18,246	242	1,523	2,094	861	60
1980	14,169	187	1,032	1,209	771	102
1981	8,348	199	1,513	803	430	84
1982	13,914	176	1,673	720	626	32
1983	9,789	136	1,403	closed	508	closed
1984	15,080	176	1,712	closed	629	closed
1985	14,780	219	1,269	1,524	661	120
1986	23,947	202	1,678	1,003	901	57
1987	21,874	224	1,510	1,217	1,003	93
1988	16,937	199	1,249	807	818	16
1989	19,642	139	856	666	991	44
1990	13,223	167	753	452	736	50
1991	15,987	203	1,403	495	873	33
1992	13,544	209	1,133	639	889	44
1993	21,108	193	1,315	672	1,214	71
1994	31,611	256	1,899	758	1,707	11
1995	26,556	225	2,114	1,228	722	82
1996	31,075	292	2,500	1,368	1,826	31
1997	23,382	274	2,572	2,099	1,035	183
1998	14,266	285	2,203	1,230	640	14
1999	18,864	264	2,349	1,506	1,005	131
2000	12,809	265	2,684	1,191	743	34
2001	22,533	310	3,077	2,431	1,242	225

NOTE: Beaver 1959-1964, the Department did not determine beaver take.

After 20 Years Small Game Hunter and Trapper Survey is Still our Window on Furbearer and Small Game Populations

by *E. Michael Ermer*
Region 9-Allegany

One of the most vexing problems that faces wildlife managers is the need to know the number of animals that live in a given area. In most cases it is impossible to directly count wild animals in large geographic areas such as a Wildlife Management Unit (WMU). Analysis of hunter and trapper harvest data is generally the simplest and most cost effective way to indirectly monitor populations of hunted and trapped species. Trends in take and hunter/trapper participation often parallel trends in populations. For deer, black bear, and turkey the Department has fairly elaborate systems for gathering data from hunters. For beaver, fisher, marten, bobcat, coyote and otter we use a pelt sealing system to collect harvest data. However, for the bulk of our furbearer and small game species, the annual Small Game Hunter and Trapper Survey is the primary tool we use to keep tabs on populations.

The current statewide Small Game Hunter and Trapper Survey was started in 1982. The impetus for implementing the survey was the strong fur market that occurred in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The Department had no way to determine if the rapid increases in hunting and trapping pressure on furbearer had effected populations of these species. We randomly surveyed about 6000 small game hunters and 3000 trappers by telephone in early Spring. These sample sizes were needed to estimate take in specific WMUs.

Over the years the Small Game and Trapper Survey has provided valuable data. We have verified long term population declines in some species such as ruffed grouse and muskrats. We have used it to maintain appropriate seasons and bag limits, and to assess trends in hunter and trapper participation. It has helped us address legal challenges to hunting and trapping. On a day- to-day basis it allows us to provide credible answers to inquires we receive from the public, and media.

Since 1982 the survey has undergone several significant changes. In 1997 the sample size for the small game portion of the survey was cut in half. This re-

duction was necessitated by decreases in our staff. The main effect of the reduced sample was to decrease the level of precision of the estimates for small game take. The reduced survey only provides precise data at the Statewide level or for large geographic areas such as the entire Southern Zone.

Another significant change occurred in 1999 when the Department switched the survey from a telephone to a mail format. This change again was necessitated by decreases in our staff. Although the overall cost of telephone surveys and mail surveys are similar, a much higher percentage of the costs of a telephone survey is in labor. One benefit of switching to the mail format is that it has allowed us to add questions to the survey, while saving labor costs. (With a mail survey, lengthening the survey does not add to the cost nearly as much as it does with a telephone survey.) For example, we now ask questions about the amount of time people spend hunting and trapping. We have also added question on how hunters and trappers feel about seasons, and how they think populations are doing.

Another change planned for the 2002 survey is the way in which the samples are drawn. Up until now, our samples had to be drawn by physically going through all the licences that were sold statewide. This involved handling over a million pieces of paper. It is expected that the 2002 sample will be drawn electronically via the Department's automated licensing system. This should save us up to 40 days of staff time.

If you receive a small game or trapper survey we ask that you take the time the time to fill it out as accurately as possible and return it promptly. Even if you haven't actually hunted or trapped it is important that you return the questionnaire. The results you provide are our window on furbearer and small game populations.

The Fur Market in 2001-02

By Robert F. Gotie
Region 7-Cortland

The fur market rebounded slightly during the 2001-02 season, thanks in large part to increased demand for foxes, raccoon and muskrats in Russia and Asia. The market is still considerably lower than those optimistic days of the 1996-97 season, but any rebound during these difficult economic times is good news. The demand for raccoon, red fox and muskrat remains strong abroad and the U.S. dollar is weaker against other currencies, so expect prices for these goods to at least hold the line from last year.



Figure 1. Typical scene at a local Trapper's Association Auction - Independent Fur Harvesters of Central NY.

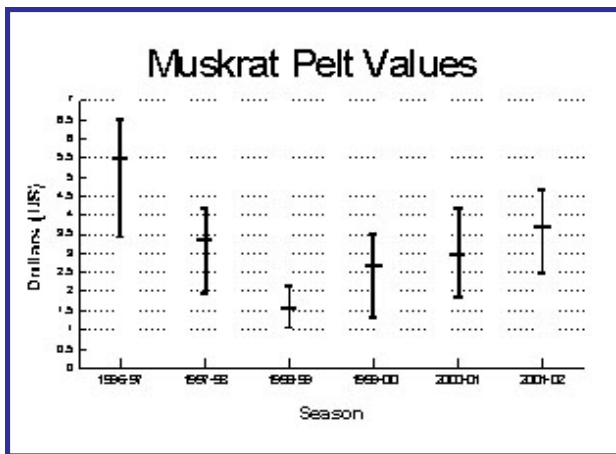
Of the fourteen species I have records for, eight increased in value, and six declined. Of the big five species harvested (raccoon, muskrat, beaver, red fox and gray fox), only beaver pelts declined in value. As they say in the stock market, winners outpaced losers, but only by a slim margin. The largest year-to-year increase in relative value was recorded for skunk (\$3.64 to \$5.69 or 56%). This price sets a new record for skunk pelts over the 23 years I have recorded average pelt values. I can only surmise that the demand for long haired fur like red fox, raccoon and coyote, used for trim, has pulled up the value of skunk pelts, a usually low value species. Pelt values for the past six seasons are given below. These averages represent a composite seasonal average from 22 local auctions in New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Vermont, and New Hampshire reported in *The Trapper and Predator Caller* or sent to me from the various county trapper's associations in New York during the 2001-02 season.

SPECIES	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	'00-01 to '01-02 Difference
Muskrat	\$5.48	\$3.33	\$1.59	\$2.65	\$2.96	\$3.66	24% Increase
Mink	\$18.63	\$11.17	\$9.02	\$10.24	\$9.60	\$8.57	11% Decrease
Beaver	\$24.13	\$20.20	\$12.82	\$14.26	\$18.58	\$14.41	22% Decrease
Otter	\$40.42	\$42.36	\$30.95	\$37.17	\$50.46	\$46.66	8% Decrease
Raccoon	\$15.39	\$11.33	\$6.58	\$5.14	\$7.84	\$8.64	10% Increase
Bobcat	\$25.50	\$41.87	\$31.33	\$29.57	\$46.67	\$53.50	15% Increase
Coyote	\$20.59	\$13.08	\$9.12	\$13.45	\$15.10	\$16.22	7% Increase
Red Fox	\$18.62	\$13.44	\$9.27	\$10.80	\$16.56	\$20.13	22% Increase
Gray Fox	\$12.88	\$10.42	\$5.56	\$6.94	\$9.04	\$11.90	32% Increase
Opossum	\$2.01	\$1.17	\$0.71	\$0.83	\$1.56	\$1.58	1% Decrease
Skunk	\$3.67	\$2.54	\$2.47	\$2.51	\$3.64	\$5.69	56% Increase
Marten	NDA	\$20.50	\$25.33	\$23.23	\$21.38	\$18.07	15% Decrease
Weasel	\$2.60	\$1.98	\$2.17	\$2.62	\$3.65	\$2.30	37% Decrease
Fisher	\$38.70	\$30.42	\$21.90	\$17.40	\$19.05	\$22.43	18% Increase

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The pelt price averages derived at these local auctions include all the variables that go into fur grading: from green pelts to the most prime pelts; those expertly put up to the junk that we've all seen. Because of the quality of your fur, you may have received more or less for your pelts than the values summarized below. Let's hope it was more! Below is a graph depicting muskrat pelt values for the last six seasons. It shows the seasonal high, the average, and the low prices paid to trappers.



Over these six seasons the low prices were generally paid at December auctions. This should make sense to all trappers, because these are normally the first 'rats of the season and late fall/early winter muskrat pelts are just "coming on to prime." Also, market demand is just beginning to develop and most furbuyers are cautious about what they will pay for fresh goods this early in the season. The highs generally were achieved at auctions held in December, January, February and April. Demand is undoubtedly the key component here. It appears from these limited data that in seasons of strong market demand, the highest prices paid will generally be at January and February auctions. Naturally the size of the auction and who shows up to bid on fur will also play a role in prices paid to trappers.

Have a safe and productive time on your trapline and I hope to see you at an auction in central New York.

A Better Way of Trapping Raccoons

by Scott Smith
Region 3-New Paltz

The value of long-haired furs has improved. Red fox and raccoon are in demand. New York trappers are sure to increase their effort trapping these animals. It is important that trappers continue to do everything possible to prevent the accidental capture of non-furbearers.

I have always used body-gripping traps on land with extreme caution and the utmost discretion. I have limited my use of dryland body-grippers to locations where it would be very unlikely to catch a dog. However, even with leash laws in the areas I trap it is not easy to find truly dog-free areas. With these limitations the bulk of my raccoon locations end up being set with footholds or completely bypassed.



A raccoon-specific, foot-encapsulating trap, the "Lil' Grizz Get'rz" raccoon trap works very effectively.

I decided to try some of the new raccoon-specific restraint traps. These traps are designed with a small opening which a raccoon reaches in to grab a bait. The small opening eliminates most domestic animals from working the bait. Some designs pet proof further with the use of a pull trigger which increases selectivity to animals which can grasp (primarily raccoons and opossums).

I bought a couple of each of the different designs. Most designs are a bit complicated and tricky to set but I felt this was offset somewhat

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by how easy they are to deploy in the field. The stand out in this type of trap is the Lil' Grizz Get'rz¹. The Lil' Grizz is easy to bait, set, stabilize, and to remove a raccoon. The most time consuming part of setting a

Lil' Grizz is driving the stake! The down side to these traps: They are a bit pricey at around \$20 each, but I looked at it this way, I wasn't buying these to replace the traps I already own. I bought them to increase the areas I could trap! They quickly paid for themselves.

Areas I had passed up previously became very attractive with these new traps. The use of sweet baits (usually mini-marshmallows) opened up even more locations. Barns and other outbuildings where cats lived could be set (after conferring with the landowner) with virtually no fear of catching one.

Most of my body-gripping sets for raccoons were open-bottomed wood cubbies, wire cubbies or 5 gallon pails with a sweet bait (marshmallows), with the occasional trail set thrown in. These were deployed very carefully but I continued to search for improvements. There had to be a better way. I may have found it last year—it's a vertical cubby. It is fastened to a tree with the opening on the bottom, close to the ground. The body-gripper is set parallel to the ground several inches inside the cubby. For any dog to get caught, it first would have to squeeze under the box and then turn its body upwards. A near impossible feat for a dog, but something a raccoon does every day squeezing into a hollow tree.

An evening tinkering in my basement produced a prototype vertical cubby. Basic in design and using scrap lumber, I built the new cubbies for both 220s and 160s. Most boxes were 12 inches long with the back 4-5 inches longer to nail to a tree. Inside measurements were just large enough to allow the trap to function properly. (Be careful if you have different brands of body grippers--they don't all measure the same.) Most of mine measured approximately 9 inches by 8 ½ inches (inside) for the 220 and 8 inches by 7 ¼ inches for the 160. Slots for the springs were about 5/8 inch wide by 5 inches long. I wanted the trap to fit fairly snug in the box because only the friction of the cocking springs kept the trap in place. I made sure there was still enough room for the trigger to fire.

To hold the bait above the trap, I stapled hardware cloth or built a wood shelf about 3 ½ to 4 inches wide about 3 inches down from the top. For a lid, a board matching the outside dimensions was pegged in place on one side with a screw. A hole was drilled in the opposite side through the lid into the box. A nail was then friction fit in the hole to hold the lid shut. Pulling the nail allowed the lid to be pivoted off to the side and the box baited.



Setting these boxes was fast and simple. I selected a fairly straight tree, preferably with a minimum of buttressing or flaring at its base. Trees with too much buttressing forced the bottom of

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the box out and up, potentially making it easier for a nonfurbearer to access. The box was positioned on the tree with the opening about 4-5 inches off the ground. Two, sometimes three, nails were used to attach the box to the tree through the extension at the top of the back. I left one inch of nail exposed for ease in removal. Double headed nails might work best to keep the box snug to the tree. Cable extensions on my body-grippers allowed anchoring to a nearby sapling with a slip loop or to the tree with a fence staple. The trap was set and slid into the notches with the trigger toward the front. Once in place the springs were cocked to the front to lock the trap in place. This also ensured there was room for the trigger to release. The top was opened up and bait/lure placed on the screening/shelf. The top was closed and the safety hooks removed. Start to finish was around two minutes.

So you ask, "Do they work or not!" Yep! They work. A few adjustments became apparent quickly. I started with a standard V trigger configuration on both 220s and 160s. This worked fine on the 220s. However, several 160s were pulled out and fired. I think with the smaller opening, raccoons were reaching in to pull themselves into the tighter space, setting off the trap with their paws. I also had problems with mice using the triggers as a platform to get to the bait. Putting the trigger wires together and all the way off to the side immediately stopped the problem.

The other adjustment I made was to place a few sticks ½ inch in diameter or better into the ground on both spring sides of the box to direct the animal to approach from the front to ensure a top/bottom strike instead of a side/side strike.

The use of sweet baits is essential to avoid unwanted catches such as cats. Vertical boxes by their design appear less attractive to cats, compared to boxes placed horizontally. With a vertical box, there is no visual attraction to a cat; they cannot see the opening.

I experimented by varying the distance off the ground from three to six inches. You will be surprised what a raccoon will squeeze through. But then just look at the natural openings they go through. If they can get their head in the rest follows. I was convinced after catching a number of a big boar raccoons with only 4 inches of clearance. There is no need to go any higher than 4 inches, and good reasons to keep your trap low to the ground.

I'll have more of these boxes ready to go for next fall. They will all have a shelf for the bait instead of the hardware cloth. With the shelves, it will be easy to prebait the boxes ahead of the season. Raccoons will have access to an easy meal, until the season opens. I will also try drilling a few 3/8 inch holes on the sides and front near the lid to improve scent dispersal out of the box.

These boxes and raccoon specific restraint traps have increased my selectivity as a raccoon trapper, and opened up a lot of new territory. I think that you will experience the same benefits that I have observed. More importantly, when you become a more selective trapper you help to sustain and improve trapping and furbearer management for the benefit of both yourself and others.

¹Reference to trade-names does not constitute an official DEC endorsement.

New Tool Available For Beaver Nuisance Control

by William N. Sharick
Region 4-Stamford

An additional tool is now available for use in controlling nuisance beaver. Cable restraint traps may now be used by trappers who have received special training. Cable restraint traps are also called snares. However the term "cable restraint trap" is more descriptive of the design, construction and ability of the trap to capture and hold animals.

In a typical year there are over 2,000 reported beaver nuisance situations throughout the State. The majority of the complainants receive a permit to destroy problem beaver. Trapping is often used to capture and remove the animals. New York furbearer biologists determined there was a specific need for traps that would consistently take beaver and reliably exclude otter and smaller animals such as muskrats.

Cable restraint traps have proven to be useful and versatile tools for capturing wild animals. However, recent developments in components, especially the locks and the use of swivels, and refinement of technique have provided trappers with devices that are highly efficient, humane, and selective.

New York biologists thoroughly researched and studied the use of cable restraint traps. A professional beaver nuisance trapper from Mississippi and an experienced animal damage control trapper from New York gave demonstrations and taught state personnel cable trapping techniques.

DEC's Furbearer Management Team has developed a workshop to train trappers in the proper use of these devices. In the spring of 2002, approximately 200 nuisance beaver trappers were trained at seven locations throughout the state. They were taught how to use of cable restraint

traps, the procedures for issuing beaver nuisance permits, legal requirements, ethical consideration when employing cable devices, and the construction and placement of the traps. Each trapper had the opportunity to make a cable trap, using the approved designs. Upon completing the workshop, trappers became certified to use cable restraint traps at permitted nuisance sites.

As the need arises, additional workshops will be held in various locations within the State. Trappers who trap nuisance beaver that would like to add cable traps to their list of tools should contact one of DEC's regional wildlife offices.

Permitting the use of cable traps to capture nuisance beaver is another step in New York State's efforts to develop and promote responsible trapping devices and techniques.

Fur trappers are reminded that cable restraint traps cannot be used to take furbearers during the regular trapping seasons. They can only be used by certified trappers to take nuisance beaver when authorized by a Department of Environmental Conservation permit.

Websites of Interest to Trappers

DEC

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us>
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wortrap.html>
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/classlist.htm>

Other Government

<http://www.furbearermgmt.org/index.htm>
<http://www.wadsworth.org/rabies/index.htm>
<http://www.fws.gov/>
<http://www.wcmc.org.uk:80/CITES/english/index.html>

Trapping Organizations

<http://www.nationaltrappers.com/>
<http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/4075/>
<http://www.furbearers.org/>
<http://www.wlfa.org/>

Fur Auction Houses

<http://www.seattlefur.com/>
<http://www.furharvesters.com/>
<http://nafa.ca/nafa/index.htm>

Fur Industry

<http://www.fur.ca/index.html>
<http://www.fur.org/>
<http://www.furcommission.com/>
<http://www.iftf.com/>
<http://www.furs.com/>

Nuisance Wildlife

<http://wildlifedamage.unl.edu/>
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/index.html>

<http://texnat.tamu.edu/ranchref/predator/pred.htm>

Furbearer Conservation

<http://www.nyotter.org/>
<http://www.net-link.net/~vaneselk/muskrat/trapping.htm>
<http://www.xmission.com/~drudy/amm.html>

Main Index Page
 Trapping Section
 Sportsman Education Course Listings
 Statewide listing of Trapping, Hunter, Bowhunter, and Waterfowl ID courses

I.A.F.W.A - Fur Resources Technical Subcommittee - BMP information
 New York State Department of Health Rabies Lab
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

National Trappers Association
 Fur Takers of America
 Furbearers Unlimited
 Wildlife Legislative Fund of America

Seattle Fur Exchange
 Fur Harvesters Auction, Inc.
 North American Fur Auction

Fur Institute of Canada
 Fur Information Council of America
 Fur Commission USA
 International Fur Trade Federation
 Furs.com

National clearinghouse on many aspects of damage control
 U.S. Dept of Agriculture - Wildlife Services
 Excellent source for information on nuisance and destructive wildlife
 Predation- Procedures for Evaluating Predation on Livestock and Wildlife

New York River Otter Project
 Everything Muskrat
 Mountain Men and the Fur Trade

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