

ANIMAL CENSUS REPORT
Isle Royale National Park
1959

Species	Estimated No. and/or Relative Abundance	Comments
Mammals		
Moose	600	Aerial census of moose taken by Collaborator David Mech in February-March, 1960. A total of 529 moose counted in this census. Allowing for those in swamps and hidden by forest cover population is estimated at about 600. Browse conditions are good over the island but some local areas are over-browsed. Mech has found several moose which appeared to be starving by check of bone marrow. Excellent "balance" seems to exist between moose and timber wolf at present.
Golden Eagle	Common	Population seems to be on an up-swing from two years ago. Seem to be present in approximately the same numbers as given in the last report.
Weasel	Rare	
Mink	Common	Observations numerous throughout the Park which, considering the furtiveness of this animal, indicates a good population.
Red Fox	Common	Seem to be increasing by the number of reports and observations in and around developed areas of the Park.
Coyote	Rare	Investigations by Biologist-Collaborator Mech indicate that the coyote is now extinct in Isle Royale National Park.
Timber Wolf	20	One pack of 16 and a second pack of 3 observed continuously during winters of 1959 and 1960. No increase in wolves from 1959 to 1960.
Northern Red Squirrel	Abundant	So plentiful that it would be difficult to estimate population trends.
Deer Mouse, White-footed	Common	Present in strong numbers, the deer mouse seems unaffected by any population change.
Beaver	Common	Further predations by the timber wolves have tended to reduce the beaver population considerably. A proposed study of the Isle Royale beavers will certainly throw more light on beaver situation.

continued

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Muskrat	Uncommon	Seem to be present in similar numbers as in 1957 report. Timber wolves evidently take a few muskrat.
Hare, Snowshoe	Common	The hare is on a cyclic up-swing and is seen in increasing numbers at many different locations in the Park.
Birds Bald Eagle	Common	Seen quite commonly in many different areas, always near water. Nests in evidence at Moskey Basin, Rabbit Island, and Hay Point. Some local areas are over-browsed. Much has found several
Osprey	Common	Still quite common but not observed as often as the Bald Eagle above. "balance" seems to exist between moose and timber wolf at present.
Sharptail Grouse	Common to Rare	Population seems to be on an up-swing from two years ago. Several observed from the air during the 1960 winter Moose-Wolf study.
Great Blue Heron	Uncommon	Present during nesting period and quite in evidence at that time. Later may be observed at specific locations in the Park.
Herring Gull	Abundant	Seem to be declining in numbers along with the corresponding decline in commercial fishing operations on the island.
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