Combined results

Species	Line A			Line B			Line C		
	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am
S. araneus	10	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-
A. sylvaticus	1	-	-	1	-	1	7	-	9
C. glareolus	1	1	2	5	2	5	5	6	4

Discussion

Four of the common shrews taken, 3 on trap line A and 1 on trap line B had a distinct black spot on each flank clear of the demarcation line.

The deaths of so many shrews cannot go unmentioned. The traps on line A where 6 out 10 shrews had died over night 24-25th April had been baited with pupae left over from the Hopewell House Farm Trap but they had been kept refrigerated from then, until we used them on the evening of the 24th. The question is posed however, on whether or not pupae deteriorate if development is delayed for a long period. Ample pupae had been put in the traps and they had been eaten but still this high level of mortality had occurred.

A question mark does hang over the deaths of 3 out of the 4 shrews taken on trap line B. These traps had been baited with tinned pet food, which I read somewhere years ago, was an acceptable bait for shrews. Meat, far in excess of a shrew's body weight, the water content of such a food to be considered, was placed in the traps, some had been eaten by the shrews but had not prevented them dying. The reason tinned pet food was used was that we were short of pupae.

Other mammals seen during the weekend were two water voles (*Arvicola terrestris*) feeding by one of the Reserve ponds on the evening of the 25th. Also, in the dusk, three small bats were seen foraging.

Kenneth Burden

Footnote

As a preliminary to this long term study, a smaller scale trap was held on Willow Garth Reserve during December 1986/January 1987. 24 Longworth traps were used. The combined results are as follows:-

Species	Total	Sex	Weight
C. glareolus	18	9M,8F	13-17.5g
S. araneus	3	?	5-6g
A. sylvaticus	10	4M,8F	14-21g

Further details are available from Ken Burden.

4. The Otter Trust and the Norfolk Wildlife Park

On 16-17th May, a contingent from the Yorkshire Mammal Group visited the Otter Trust and the Norfolk Wildlife Park.

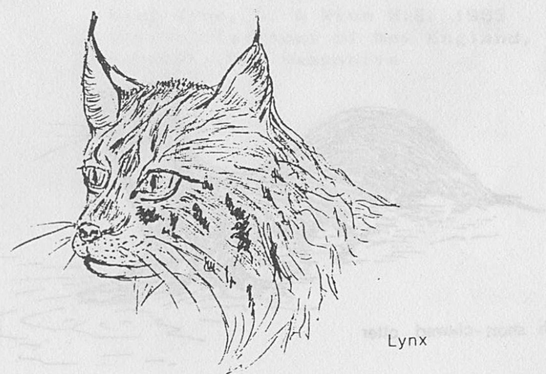
First stop was the Otter Trust. Sited near Bungay, Suffolk, the Trust breeds otters and releases them into the wild in a carefully co-ordinated programme. Two species of otter are kept at Bungay - the European otter (*Lutra lutra*) and the Asian short clawed otter (*Aonyx cinerea*). The former is bred for release while the latter is mainly kept for the entertainment of visitors, since it is more playful and less shy than the secretive European otter. We arrived in time to see the otters being fed, enabling us to get good views of both species.

On Sunday we went to the Norfolk Wildlife Park at Great Witchingham. Here, a large number of British and European animals are kept, and many have been released back into the wild after breeding. On display are red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), some which were found injured while others are former pets. We saw a family of Arctic foxes (*Alopex lagopus*) in various stages of losing their winter coats, and two badgers (*Meles meles*) which were unfortunately rather inactive. The large lynx enclosure was very impressive, with habitat features, including mature trees and rocky areas. Other mammals included grey seals, otters, wild cats, polecats, various deer species and many others. A particularly interesting feature was the herd of reindeer aquired by the park after being used in the film "Santa Claus - the movie".

Birds are also kept. We saw a purple gallinule, an Alpine chough and a colony of night herons, among others. Eagle owls have been bred very successfully and some have been released into Scandanavia where they were once present but have become extinct. There were many other owls on display, including snowy owls, barn owls, tawny owls and little owls.

Altogether the visits to both institutions made for a fascinating weekend and a rare chance to see at close quarters animals which are often very elusive in the wild.

Kate Fuller



Lynx