HEDGEROW CORRIDORS

Boone & Tinklin, using mark and recapture techniques, recently studied hedgerow populations of woodmice (*Apodemus sylvaticus*) and bank voles (*Clethrionomys glareolus*) on the Yorkshire Wolds.

Their results indicated that the greatest population densities were found in hedgerows with dense undergrowth. There appeared to be frequent movements of both species within the hedgerows, but a restriction of movement to and from adjacent pasture and coppice habitats.

The implication drawn from this study is that the hedgerow is an isolated habitat network carrying discrete populations of woodmice and bank vole.

Ref:'Importance of hedgerow structure in determining the occurence and density of small mammals'.
G.C. Boone & R. Tinklin
Aspects of Applied Biology, 16. 1988.

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VOLE POPULATION REGULATION
THE ROLE OF THE DOMESTIC CAT

Recent small mammal research in Sweden has shown that domestic cats (*Felis catus*) may play quite a major role in field vole (*Micotus agrestis*) popuiation regulation.

The normally cyclic patterns of vole abundance were found to become non-cyclic in areas of high cat density. Cats, due to their association with man and also their social organisation, are often found at considerably higher densities than wild rodent predators such as foxes, weasels and birds of prey. Hence, their ability to have such a drastic effect on small mammal populations. Indeed, my own cat has been known to catch two or three voles a day at certain times of year (a fact made all the more remarkable by the fact that he' s almost totally blind!).

Bearing this in mind, perhaps the resident cat population is a factor which should be taken into account during future small mammal population surveys!

Ref: 'The domestic cat as a possible modifier of vole dynamics.'
L. Hansson
Mammalia 52(2) 1988

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