

# NB's Eastern Coyote



# What is a Coyote?



- Medium size canid; ~17 kg (can exceed 27 kg/60 lbs), 130 cm
- Gray with black tones on back/tail
- Mates in January, with 5-10 pups born in April/May in dens
- Inhabit all types of landscapes, particularly farmland
- Juveniles disperse in the Fall, sexually mature at 1 yr
- Territories are several km<sup>2</sup>, hunting routes of ~20 km
- Nocturnal and may hunt as pairs or families.
- Food sources: opportunistic, eats hare, deer beaver, small mammals, livestock, birds, vegetation, etc.
- Keen sense of smell, can detect human scent easily
- ~10,000 – 12,000 coyotes in NB

# Coyote and Wolf Relatives



Grey Wolf

F: 70-90 lbs

M: 90-100+ lbs



Western Coyote

F: 25 lbs

M: 30 lbs



Eastern Wolf

F: 45-55 lbs

M: 55-75 lbs



Eastern Coyote

F: 30-35 lbs

M: 35-45 lbs

# Historical Range of Coyotes

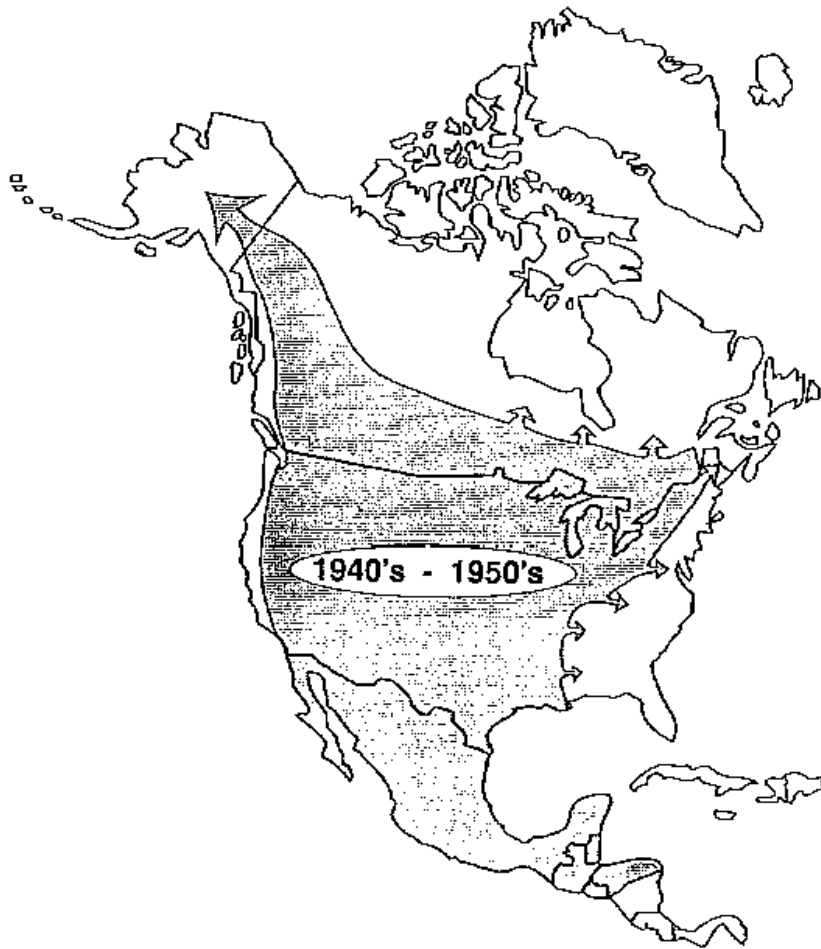


**Figure 2.** Approximate distribution of the coyote, 1800-1900.

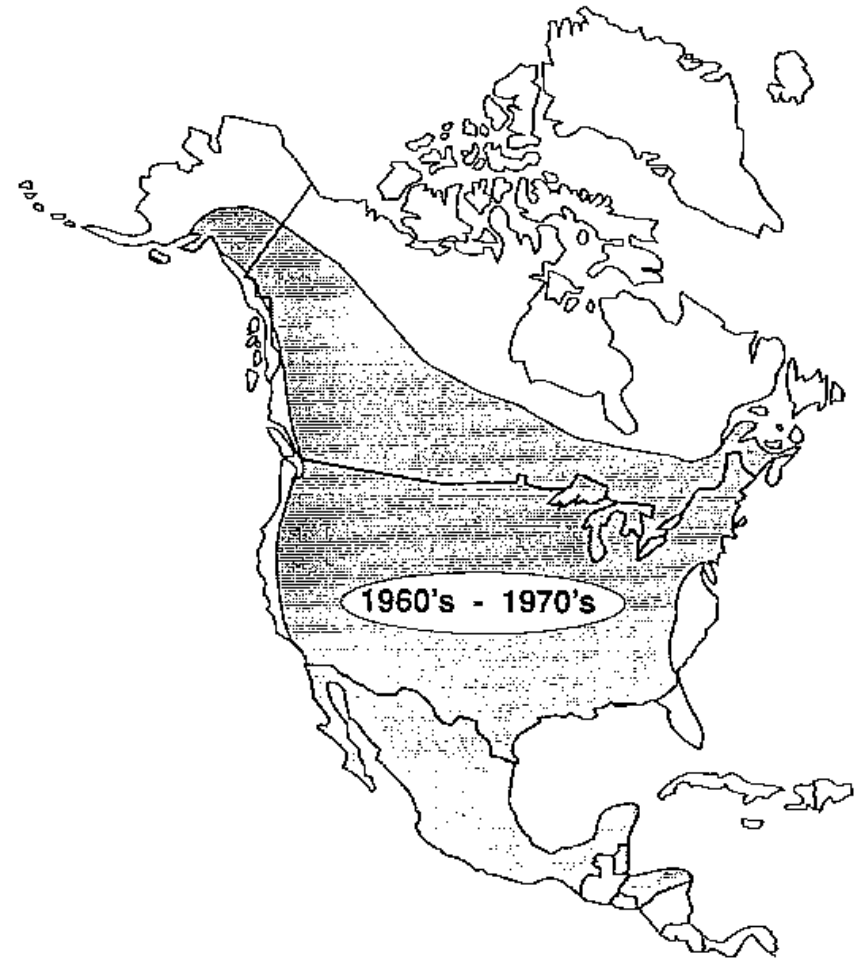


**Figure 3.** Distribution of the coyote, 1900-39, and probable routes of colonization.

# Historical Range of Coyotes

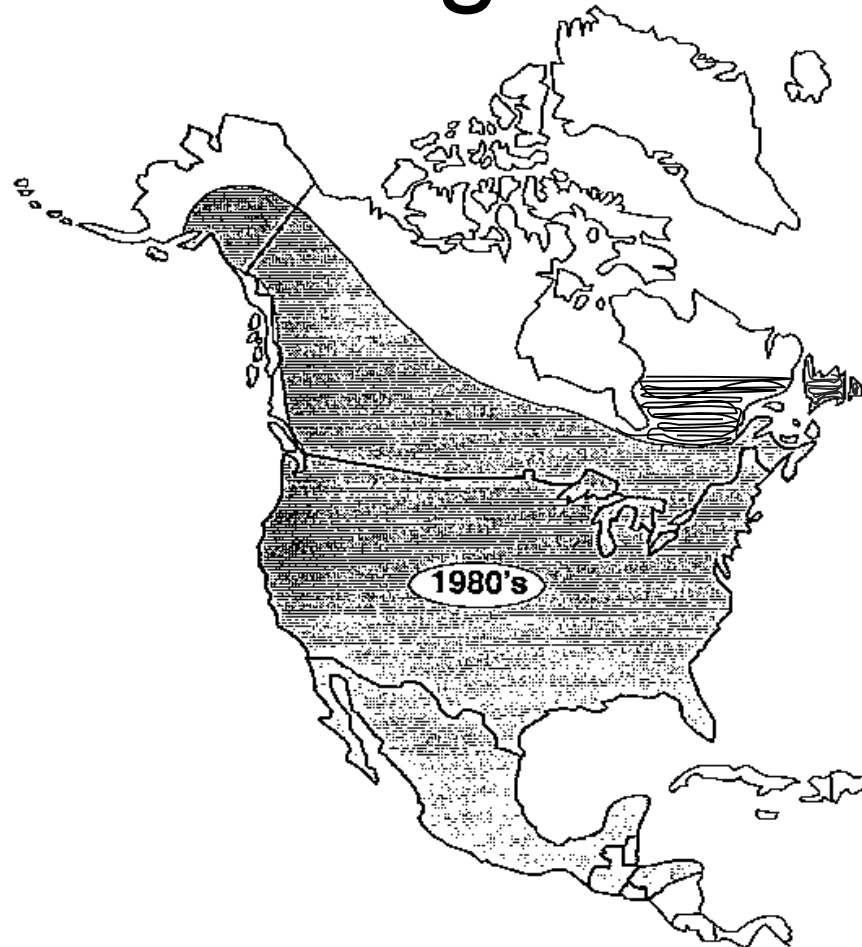


**Figure 4.** Distribution of the coyote, 1940-59, and arrival of the eastern coyote in New England.



**Figure 5.** Distribution and continued colonization of the coyote into the eastern United States and Atlantic Canada, 1960-79.

# Current Range of Coyotes



**Figure 6.** Distribution and colonization of the coyote into the Atlantic Provinces and most of eastern North America, 1980 to present.

# Top Predator



# Diversity of Prey





# Suburban Coyotes



# Threat to Humans?

- 1 reported adult human killed by coyotes (Oct 2009, Nova Scotia)
- 1 child killed previously (1980, California)
- ~10 coyote attacks per year in U.S.
- > 4,000,000 dog attacks per year in U.S.
  - ~30 fatalities annually
- 100,000 times greater risk from dogs

# Livestock Depredation



- Livestock are utilized at higher rates when ungulate populations are low.
- ~ 10 million \$ in damage annually in U.S.

# Vocalization



(*Canis latrans*; “barking dog”)

# Reproduction

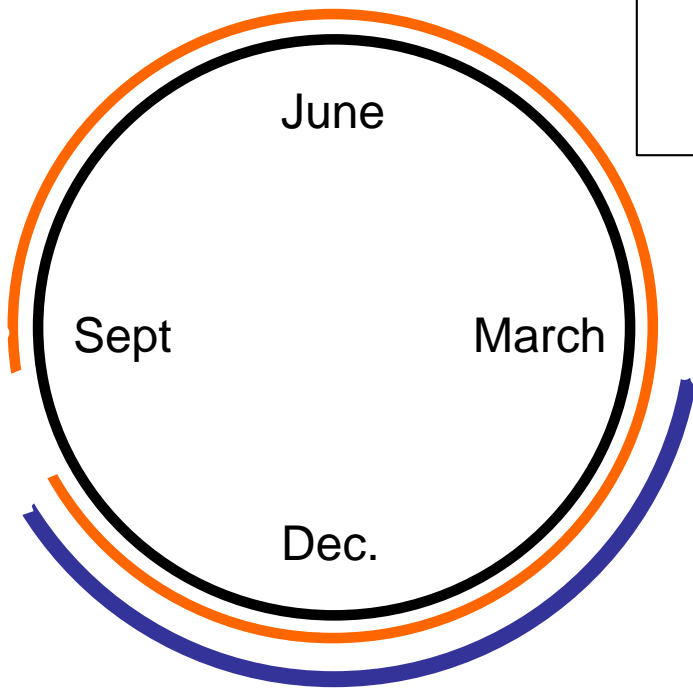
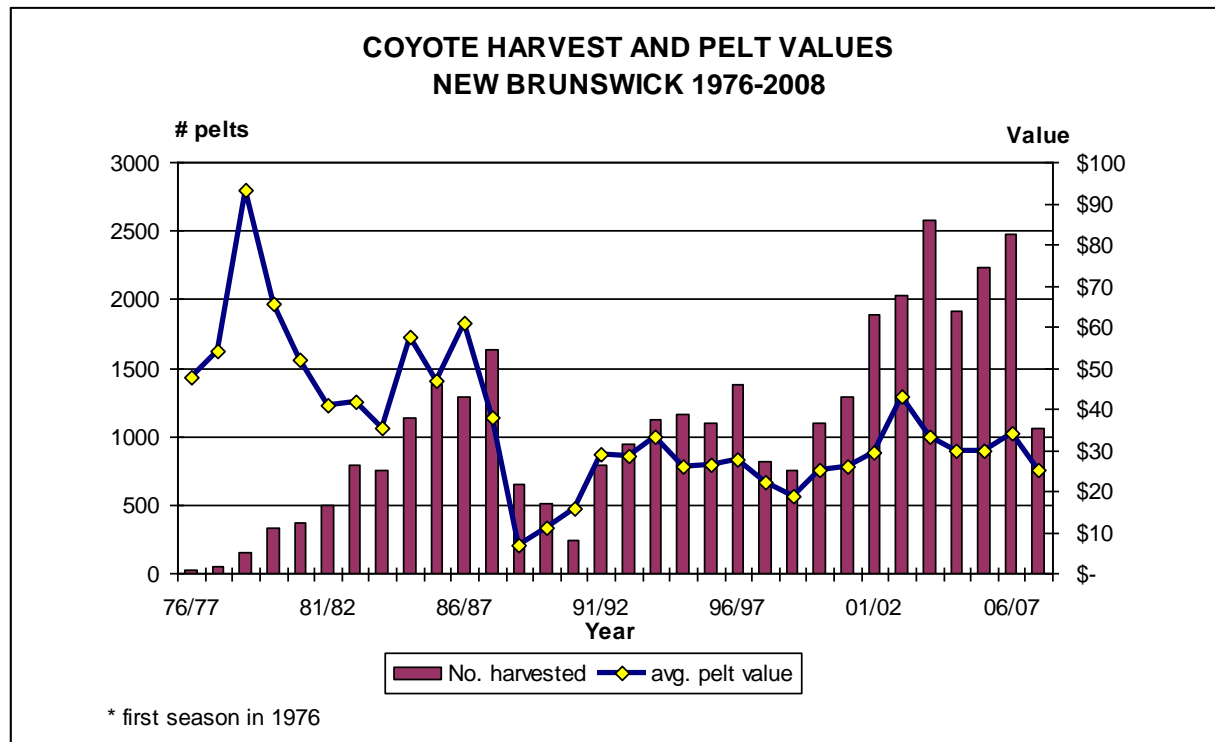
“Compensatory Reproduction”



# Natural Mortality - Disease



# Harvest



- Hunting
- Trapping

- May be harvested virtually all year long
- No quotas or limits
- Is on the list of potential nuisance wildlife

# Bounties?

- Bounty on predators in Ontario through 1973
- Can eradicate wolves, never shown effective on coyotes
- “The overwhelming disadvantage of coyote bounties is the misdirection of funds meant to, but not effectively and economically able to, reduce coyote damage to livestock.”  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/nepa/WVcoyoteFONSI.pdf>
- Nova Scotia – First coyote arrived in 1977, bounty
- introduced in 1982
- Coyotes increased every year, bounty cancelled in favour of compensation program in 1986
- SK just established a \$20/coyote bounty in fall 2009



# Effects of Utah's coyote bounty program on harvester behavior

*Rebecca A. Bartel and Mark W. Brunson*

“Although several state and provincial case histories, including Utah, are available (Bennitt 1948, Latham 1951, Michigan Department of Conservation 1960, Nielsen 1973, Theberge 1973), there is no documented evidence indicating that bounty programs temporarily or permanently reduce coyote abundance or subsequently reduce livestock depredation.”

# COYOTES

May 2006

## *in Insular Newfoundland*

Current Knowledge and Management of the Islands Newest Mammalian Predator.

“Fur managers and biologist from across Canada and the eastern U.S. met to discuss coyotes in Newfoundland, and the synopsis was that bounties did not work. Despite aerial slaughters, poisons, and bounties, the resilient coyote proved to be a survivor, and the lesson was that on a large scale at least, coyotes could not be eradicated. In fact, their versatility and reproductive capacity actually allowed them to expand their range despite very intense control initiatives.”

# So what do we do?

- Adapt to the presence of coyotes
- Accept the return of a top predator
- Manage them when possible
- Utilize them as a resource where possible



Questions?