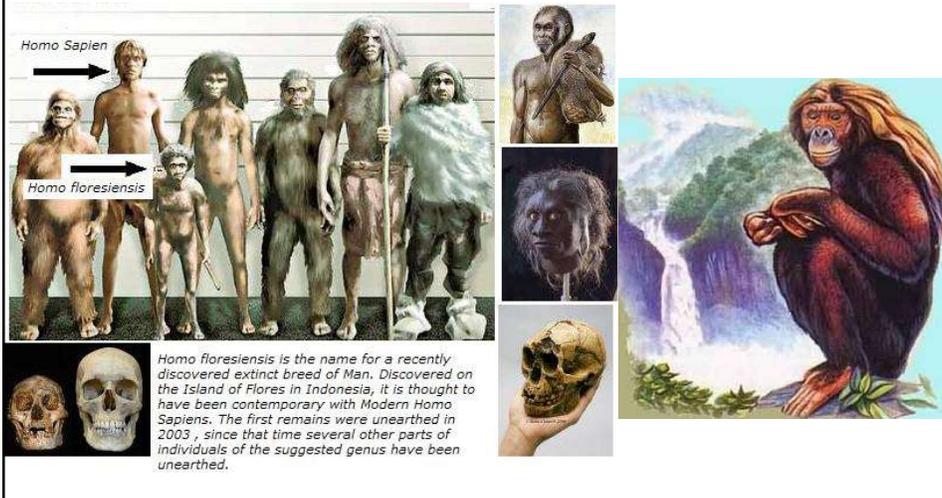


Other hairy apemen throughout the world

- **Almastys** – Caucasus Mts. in central Asia
 - Dr. Marie-Jeanne Koffman collected >500 accounts in the region
 - **Skunk Ape** – deep South, mostly Florida
 - Name comes from awful smell
- 
- **Amomongo** – man-sized hairy ape from the Phillipines
 - **Tjutjuna or Chuchunaa** – Neandertal-like hominid of Siberia

- **Yeren** – giant apeman from Shennongjia Mts. in China
 - 100's of sightings and the Chinese government is investigating
- **Fear Liath** – 10-ft tall humanoid creature from 2nd highest mt. in Scotland
 - First sighting by scientist John Norman Collie in 1890
- **Hibagon** – small apeman from mts. near Hiroshima, Japan
 - Numerous sightings began in 1970 but few after 1980

- **Orang-pendek** – island of Sumatra in Indonesia
 - 5-ft tall with red hair and thought to be primitive human similar to *Homo floresiensis*, a recent archaeological find in the area



- **Yowie** – giant, bipedal gorilla of Australia
 - Paul Compton, a yowie hunter, took this video near Glen Innes in 2007

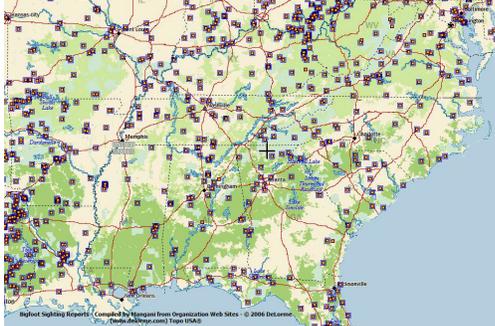


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G.C.B.R.O.
(Gulf Coast Bigfoot Research Organization)

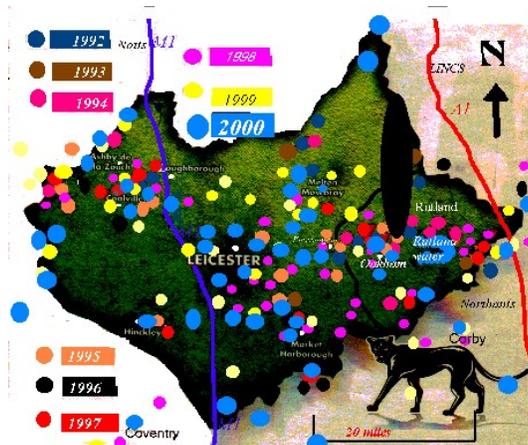
Bigfoot sightings in N. America and the SE U.S.



A similar phenomenon: big black cats

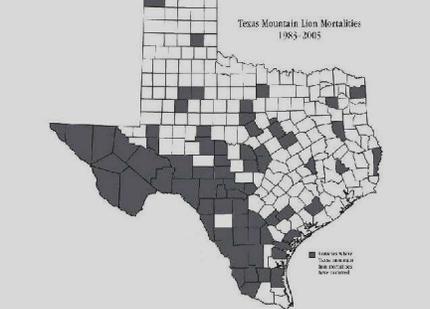
- Edinburgh, Scotland – 12 reports of big, black cat in March 2009
- New York State – numerous sightings of 5 to 6-ft long black cat along roads of Tallman National Park in April 2009

Sightings in central England 1992-2000





**MICHIGAN COUNTIES
SIGHTINGS OF BLACK COUGARS**



**Texas Mountain Lion Mortalities
1983-2005**

Mountain lion mortalities (real bodies, all yellow)

**Recent sightings of black cats
in Michigan**

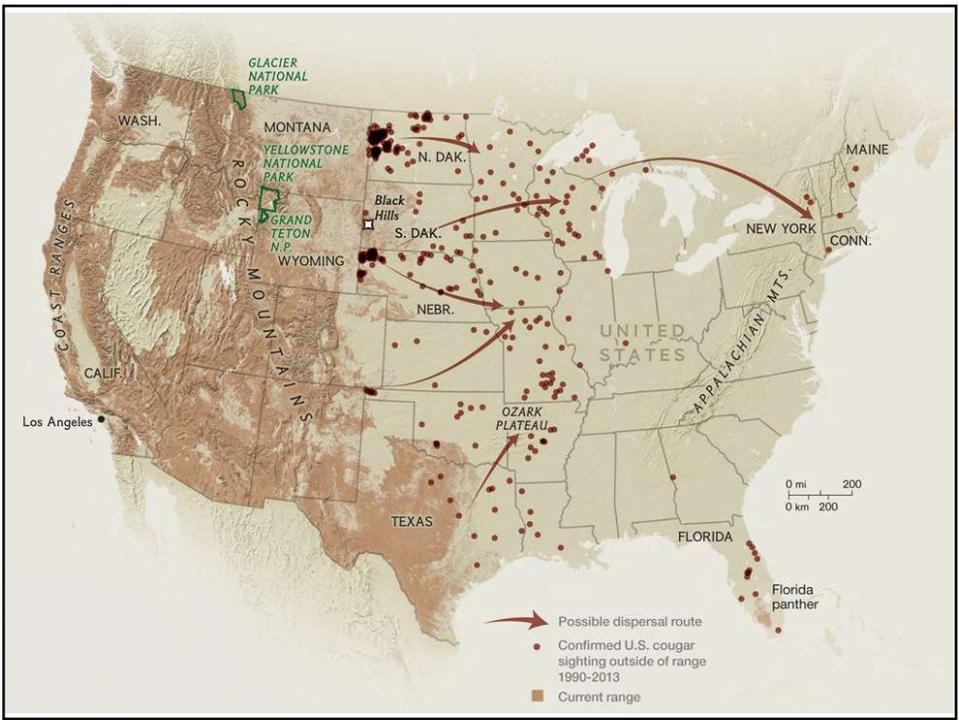


Black panther near Selma, AL



**Wolves and cougar
killed for bounty or fur**







- **Australia has a long history of big black cat reports**
 - **There are many photos (animals and tracks) and some video**



Problems include:

- No Australian Big Cats being found dead or captured
- “Expert” DNA results proving to be unreliable
- Photos and video footage proving to be ambiguous
- No confirmation of any outstanding escaped exotic big cats
- No confirmed evidence any human has ever been injured or killed by a wild big cat in Australia
- Australia's growing feral cat population are twice the stature of normal domestic cats

Official Web site of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Search: Go

Commissioner's Committee Reports

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Outdoor ALABAMA
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Home > Watchable Wildlife > Watchable Wildlife Articles

Black Cats of Alabama

By Mitchell Marks, Wildlife Biologist, Freedom Hills WMA

Year after year, reports of large black cats come in from across Alabama. The reports vary from mere sightings, to pets disappearing and livestock being killed. Reports have been investigated, evidence photographed and samples taken to try to prove or disprove that these animals exist in Alabama. However, they have proven to be so elusive, that even the best trappers have not been able to catch one. A look at black cats known to exist in other parts of the world may lead us to find out which, if any, black cats are to be found in Alabama.

In the eastern hemisphere, most specifically Asia and Africa, the leopard is the only wild cat that has a black or melanistic phase. In its melanistic phase, the leopard is often referred to as a black panther. Leopards once ranged from Europe throughout Asia and Africa. Its range is now limited to parts of Africa and southeastern Asia. Habitat loss due to human population expansion, the value of its fur in the market place, potential livestock losses and a lack of human understanding of its role in the ecosystem are reasons for its limited range.

- Careers in Conservation
- e-Newsletter
- Conservation Education
- Hunter Education
- Feedback/Surveys
- Forever Wild
- Interactive State Map
- Magazine / Column / TV
- Nature Shop
- Newsroom
- Outdoor Adventures
- Public Lands
- Research/Management
- Seasons and Bag Limits
- Special Programs
- Stimulus Programs
- Video / Webcast / Chat




Jaguarundi (*Puma yagouaroundi*)
 21-30 in. with 12-24 in. tail
 8-20 lbs.

Native to south Texas and all over Central and South America.
 Population in panhandle of Florida thought to be introduced in the early 1900's.



Why so many reports?

1. **Believe it or not, people invent stories for many reasons:**
 - **Get attention**
 - **Enjoy entertaining**
 - **Want to validate beliefs**
2. **People not familiar with outdoors mistake natural sights and sounds**
3. **People want to see something so badly they convince themselves they see or hear bigfoot/black cat after they glimpse an object**
4. **There probably have been a few real black panthers escaped from captivity**

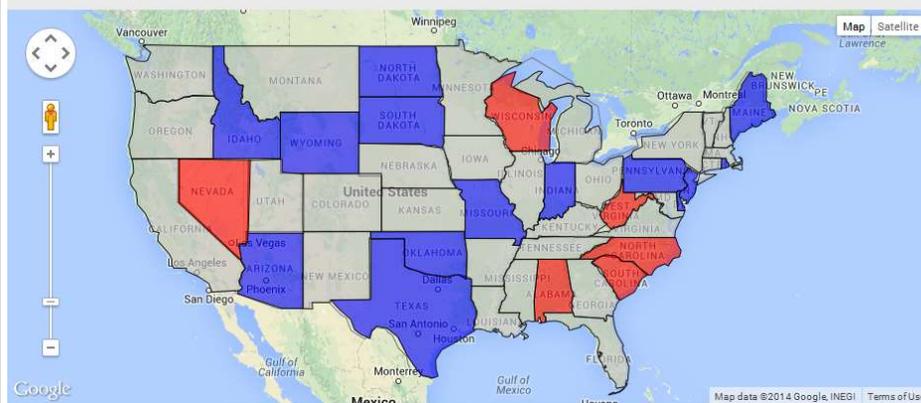
Big Cats are in crisis

IFAW is calling on you to help pass the [Big Cats and Public Safety Protection Act](#).

Passing this bill will finally mean that captive big cats do not threaten public safety, diminish global conservation efforts, or end up living in deplorable conditions.

State Laws: ■ Ban ■ Permit ■ No Restriction

Click on any state to find out whether it regulates keeping big cats as "pets". Private possession of big cats is a legal patchwork: 30 states ban private possession, 14 states allow possession with a permit, and 6 states have absolutely no restrictions on private possession at all. All states but for Kentucky, Ohio, and Washington exempt USDA licensees.



International Fund for Animal Welfare

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May 24, 2013

Dangerous Exotic Pets: Big Cats

Private ownership of tigers, lions, cougars, leopards, jaguars, and cheetahs threatens the animals and the public



1 Like the owner of this emancipated pet lion, private owners often fail to provide a proper diet.

2 Even when born in captivity and hand-raised, these wild animals retain their predatory instincts. They can (and do) injure and kill people, as evidenced by the hundreds of attacks by big cats in the U.S. in the last two decades alone.

In captivity, big cats suffer immensely from being confined to cages that are magnitudes smaller than the vast distances they typically roam in the wild. Allowing private possession of these animals poses unnecessary and preventable risks to public safety—and to the welfare of the animals themselves.

Threats to big cats

Big cats kept as pets are prematurely removed from their mothers—often within just days of birth—which often denies them proper nutrition and the natural socialization process required for normal development. The cubs very quickly mature to the point where their great strength and wild instincts make them impossible to control, and they are then, more often than not, relegated to live the remainder of their long lives in cages and garages. [More on big cat welfare >](#)

“Daddy, why did that tiger bite my arm off recovering in a hospital after he was attacked”

big cat incidents

| Since 1990 | |
|----------------|-----|
| Incidents | 306 |
| States | 44 |
| Human Deaths | 20 |
| Human Injuries | 244 |
| Animal Deaths | 125 |

October 16, 2011/Odessa, Texas: A 4-year-old boy was attacked and mauled by a 150-pound cougar who was kept as a pet by a relative. The child was standing near the cougar's cage when the animal reached out and grabbed him. The boy was taken to hospital with significant damage to the left side of his body. The cougar was seized by animal control officials and euthanized.

August 11, 2011/Halifax Township, Pennsylvania: An employee of the Lake Tobias

Florida Panthers

(From FL Fish and Wildlife Commission)

- Population estimated at 100-160 adults in south FL
- Each year, ≈ 25 deaths with 80% struck by car
- Male range: 200 mi² Female: 75 mi²





Florida Panther Range

- Known Breeding Range
- ▨ Confirmed Presence of Males
- Caloosahatchee River and Lake Okechobee

Black Bear and Red Wolf in MS

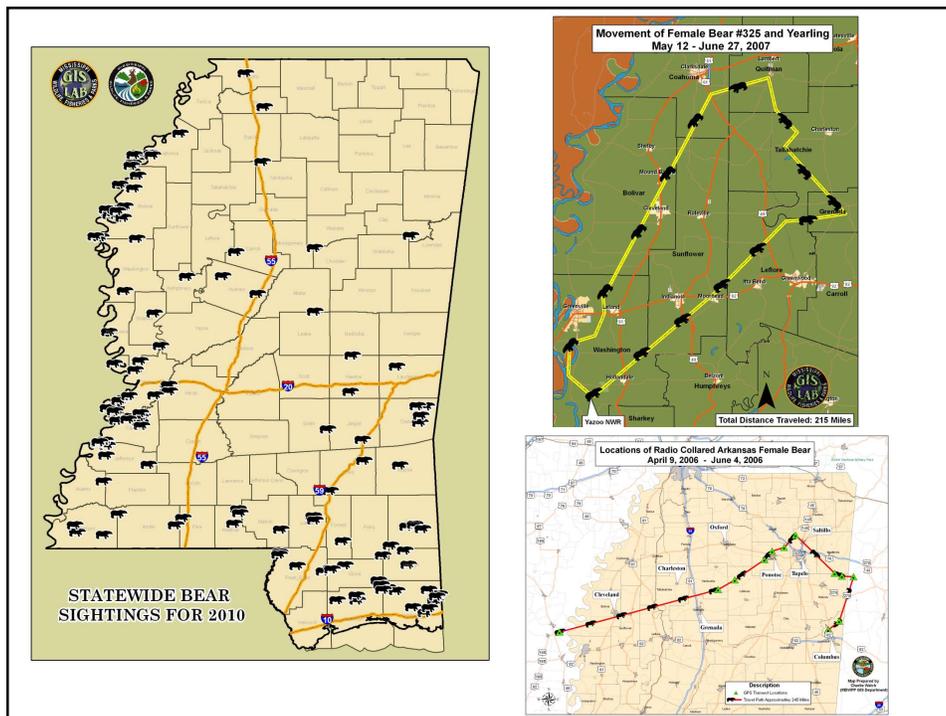
- The main reason for the decline of black bear in MS is lack of large cavity trees and large tracts of undisturbed forests
- The red wolf (*Canis rufus*) and cougar (*Puma concolor*) were extirpated because of lack of old forests



- Red wolves once roamed all over the southeastern U.S.
 - By 1980 they were reduced to 17 individuals in LA and TX
 - We began the red wolf recovery project at the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in NC and today there are about 300



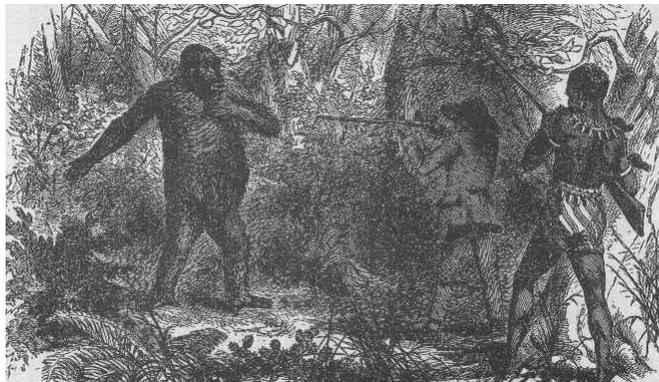
- 20 years ago, the black bear population in MS was estimated at about 15 animals
 - Now, there may be as many as 150 bears in MS and they are increasing
 - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and MDWFP track many bears with collars and monitor their survival and reproduction
 - Most are in south MS but some are seen in the north
 - Females cover about 20,000 acres/home-range and males up to 160,000 acres/home-range



Discovery of real “ape men”

- Gorilla – first reported account from Hanno the Navigator from Carthage ≈500 B.C.
 - Sighted them along the west African coast and called Gorillae by his interpreters
- First modern scientific description by physician and missionary Thomas Savage and Jeffries Wyman (both U.S.) in 1847
 - Obtained skulls and other bones but never saw one live

- In 1856, explorer Paul du Chaillu was first non-indigenous to see one alive
 - He brought dead specimens back to England
 - By 1920’s, scientific studies were being conducted



French explorer Paul du Chaillu at close quarters with a gorilla.
From: “Stanley and the White Heroes in Africa” (H. B. Scammel, 1890)

- Today, there are about 50,000 in the wild, but most are western lowland gorillas, *Gorilla gorilla* (orange)
 - There are only about 2,500 eastern lowland and 700 mountain gorillas, *Gorilla beringei*, (yellow) left in the wild
- Males weigh 300-400 lbs. and females 150-250 lbs.



- Orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) – from Malay words *orang* (person) and *hutan* (forest), so “person of the forest”
 - Word first appeared in literature in 1631 in a book by Jacobus Bontius, *Historiae naturalis et medicae Indiae orientalis*
 - Never saw one but was told of them by natives of Malaysia



- **First scientific description by Dutch anatomist Petrus Camper who observed and dissected them in late 1700's**
 - Europeans explorers hunted them in Borneo thru the 1800's
- **Today, there are >60,000 orangutans in the wild with 6 subspecies**
Males: 260 lbs. and 5'9" Females: 100 lbs. and 4'2"



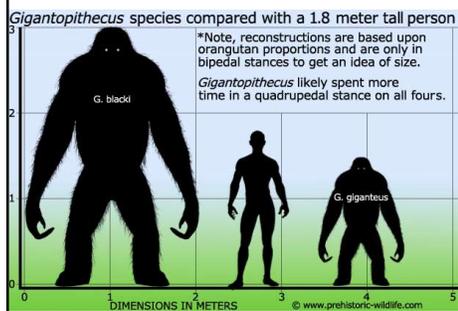
Feeding habits of large animals

- **Gorilla – 45 lbs. of green vegetation each day**
- **Orangutan – >350 food items, mostly fruit (65-90%)**
 - **Females need 11,000 calories/day during pregnancy and have to time it with fruiting season**
- **Giant Panda – 20-30 lbs. of bamboo shoots each day**



How many lbs. of food would an 800 lb. Bigfoot need?

- They are descendants of *Gigantopithecus blacki*, an ape that went extinct about 100,000 YA
 - It was the largest ape that ever lived at 10 ft. and 1,200 lbs.
 - Some think it didn't go extinct and is Bigfoot



Population Viability Analysis

- Mathematic tool for determining if you have viable population and how many individuals are needed at threshold to maintain genetic variability
- Need inputs and outputs for population: birth, death, emigration, immigration rates

Orangutan Population Viability Analysis

A Critical Study of Orangutan Population Viability Analyses



This report describes and evaluates work carried out with The Orangutan Tropical Peatland Research Project (OuTrop) in the summer of 2003 in the Sebangau catchment peat swamp forests of Central Kalimantan, Indonesia. It provides an up-to-date summary of the work which has been carried out recently aiming to protect the Orangutan and will discuss current threats to the orangutan and its habitat.

- For large animals, there is a 50/500 rule:
 - You need 50 breeding pair and 500 individuals in a population for it to be viable (Minimum Viable Population)
- We project population size 50, 100, and 1,000 years into the future
- Other factors:
 - Genetic drift – will there be inbreeding depression
 - Environmental stochasticity – random fluctuations in predators, food, disease and parasites
 - Natural catastrophes – hurricanes, floods, tornadoes

So, what are people seeing?



Zana – wild African woman caught in Ochamchir region of Abkhazia, south of Russia in the 1850’s



Russian apewoman could have been a yeti, says top geneticist

Oliver Moody

A stooped silhouette on a mountaintop; a howl in the undergrowth; a sudden shower of stones hurled from the shadows of the wilderness.

From the Himalayan yeti to the bigfoot of northwest America, thousands are convinced that they have glimpsed something not altogether human. Now an academic geneticist claims to have found the most promising evidence yet that *Homo sapiens* may not be entirely alone in its genus.

Bryan Sykes, emeritus professor of human genetics at the University of Oxford, has identified a strain of west African DNA on the Georgian-Russian border that he believes could belong to

In the mid-19th century a landowner in Abkhazia, in the Caucasus, acquired a slave called Zana, a 6ft 6in dark-skinned woman covered in thick



Zana was found running wild in the mountains; DNA tests on the remains of her son, left, show that she was African, but not modern African



come out of Africa more than 100,000 years ago and lived in the remote wilds of the Caucasus for many generations.

Professor Sykes said that he had made further discoveries about Zana since he wrote the book. "They will be published in the regular scientific press so I can't be more specific," he said.

Some colleagues have cast doubt on his findings, including a claim that he discovered genetic evidence of an unknown species of bear that might account for yeti sightings in Bhutan.

The geneticist, who last year wrote the first paper on the DNA of "anomalous primates" to be published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal, wrote that in spite of the lack of proof positive from his analysis of the purported yeti hairs, he had developed a strong sense from speaking to dozens of witnesses that there was "something out there".

Whether the best candidate for a race of apemen is the yeti, the bigfoot or the

Son, *Khwit*, born in 1884

