

Studying the elusive Red Squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*) in Yukon's boreal forests

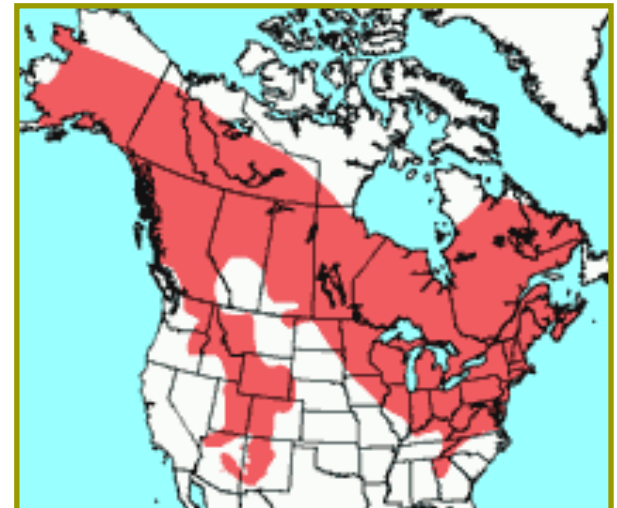
Veronik Campbell

Supervisor: Dr. Murray M. Humphries
Department of Natural Resource Sciences



Red Squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*)

- ❑ Diurnal and territorial (midden defense)
- ❑ Diet = Spruce seeds
- ❑ Stay active during the winter
- ❑ Average litter size = 3
- ❑ Life expectancy = 2.3 years



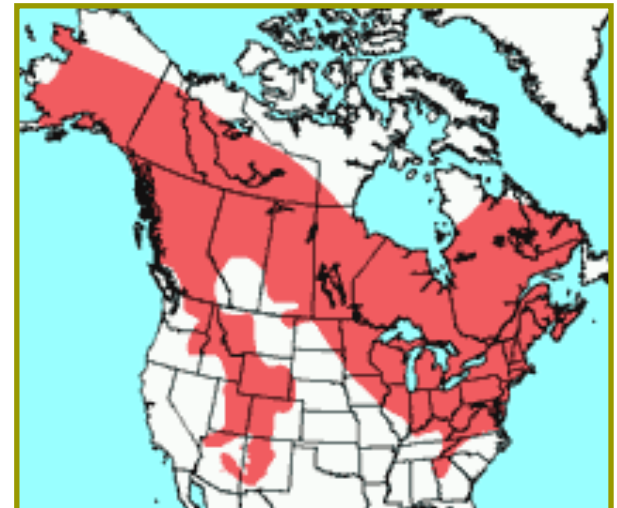


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Kluane Red Squirrel Project

- Association of 3 universities:
 - McGill University
 - University of Alberta
 - Michigan State University



Kluane Red Squirrel Project

Main goal:

- To examine the factors influencing the lifetime reproductive success of red squirrels to gain insight into evolution in natural populations



Main Project Methodology

- Long-term monitoring of red squirrel population in the boreal forest



- Trapping

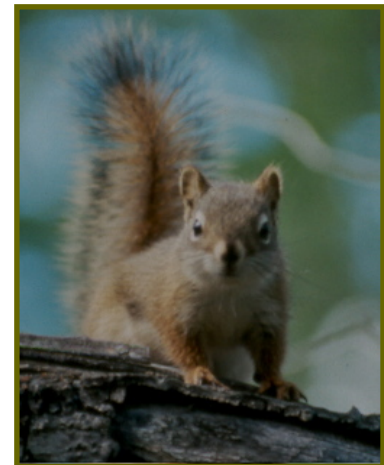


- Nests



My research

- Compare the space use and activity levels of male and female red squirrels between areas with high and low levels of food



My Research Methodology

- Observations conducted at same time of the day on high and low food areas
- 10 males / 10 lactating females per food area

My Research Methodology

- ❑ 5 minutes of observation per individual at each midden
- ❑ Female radio telemetry location
- ❑ Recorded the first behaviour observed and location



Acknowledgement

- Supervisor Dr. Murray M. Humphries
- Co-researcher Alejandro del Peral
- Graduate student Quinn Fletcher



NSERC
CRSNG



Questions?



View of Decoli Mountain and Chitty monitoring grid
Photo by Veronik Campbell