

The lynx in Liechtenstein

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Abstract: The only observation of *Lynx lynx* in the last decade in Liechtenstein was reported.

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The observations of one lynx (Fig. 1) in January 2004 and one in January 2005 have still been the only data of lynx in Liechtenstein since their extinction about one hundred years ago and since the last SCALP status report published (FASEL 2001). The locality of the observations, the forest of the village Schaanwald, near the border to Vorarlberg/Austria, is very near to possible observations in Vorarlberg (LAASS & al. this issue). It may be the same animal or animals. Suspecting that the observation might be related to a radio-collared lynx translocated to eastern Switzerland (RYSER & al. 2004), the area of the observations was examined for radio-signals, but with no success. In addition, several samples of excrements have been examined, but they all originated from dogs or foxes. The same result was found with several roe deer and chamois remains found in the forest and suspected to be lynx kills.

We expect immigration of lynx from neighbouring Switzerland to happen in the near future, as Liechtenstein is only separated from the North-Eastern Swiss occurrence by the river Rhine. Experts suppose that the Rhine valley is to be easily crossed by lynx. Foresters and hunters are informed about the situation. They keep an eye on possible tracks of lynx and will report them to the local authority.

References

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Fig. 1: Location of the only direct observation of a lynx in Liechtenstein during the five-year period 2000-2004 (black line = international boundary, grey = lakes, grey line = Rhine river). The land use data is from CORINE (European Topic Centre on Land Cover, Environment Satellite Data Center, Kiruna, Sweden), which classifies the land use types on a 250x250-m grid.