

Annual Mammal Survey 2014

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Abstract

Annual mammal surveys are used as an index to species distribution and abundance. For the 2014 Annual Mammal Survey, numbers of black bear, bobcat, and gray fox per respondent were above long-term averages. Numbers of American marten, badger, coyote, fisher, gray wolf, jack rabbit, red fox, and river otter per respondent were below long-term averages. Long-term averages represent observations over the twenty-seven year period of 1987-2013. Additionally, responses by field personnel in the 2014 Annual Mammal Survey increased 3% from the 2013 level.

Methods

Wildlife Survey materials were sent to regional land leaders with the instruction to distribute the survey forms to all field personnel in their region. The annual Mammal Survey was sent out with the Ten-Week Brood Survey. Field personnel were asked to record the number of eleven mammal species, namely, American martens, badgers, black bears, bobcats, coyotes, fishers, gray foxes, gray wolves, jack rabbits, red foxes, and river otters observed by them while doing normal field operations during the past year. Field personnel were asked to report live sightings as well as road kills. All species have appeared on the annual mammal survey since 1987 except for gray wolves, which were added in 1997. Numbers per respondent were used because the number of observers changes from year to year. The number of respondents, however, underestimates the number of observers because field personnel did not fill out the survey if they sighted none of the mammals listed. Long-term averages are based on observations from the twenty-seven year period of 1987-2013.

Results

One hundred and thirty (134) surveys contained observations of mammals in 2014. Since 1987, respondents have averaged 172 surveys per year. The number of surveys returned in 2014 represents a 3% increase from the 2013 response of 130 surveys.

American Marten

One American marten was observed in 2014, as a road kill sighting. American martens per respondent numbered 0.007 in 2014, which is lower than the long-term average is 0.012 (Figure 1).

Badger

Twenty-seven field personnel observed 62 badgers in 2014. Thirty-one (31) observations were live sightings and 31 observations were road kills. Badgers per respondent numbered 0.46 in 2014, which is lower than the long-term average of 0.61 (Figure 2).

Black Bear

Seventy-eight field personnel observed 452 black bears in 2014. Three hundred and ninety-five (395) observations were live sightings and 57 were road kills. Black bears per respondent numbered 3.37 in 2014, which is above the long-term average of 2.84 black bears per respondent (Figure 3).

Bobcat

Twenty-three field personnel observed 45 bobcats in 2014. Thirty-five (35) observations were live sightings and 10 were road kills. Bobcats per respondent numbered 0.34 in 2014, which is above the long-term average of 0.16 bobcats per respondent (Figure 4).

Coyote

Eighty-three personnel observed 329 coyotes in 2014. Two hundred and fifty-nine (259) were live sightings and 70 were road kills. Coyotes per respondent numbered 2.46, which is below the long-term average of 2.55 coyotes per respondent (Figure 5).

Fisher

Twenty-seven field personnel observed 46 fishers in 2014. Thirty-five (35) were live sightings and 11 were road kills. Fishers per respondent numbered 0.34 in 2014, which is below the long-term average of 0.78 fishers per respondent (Figure 6).

Gray Fox

Twenty-two field personnel observed 64 gray foxes in 2014. Forty-one (41) were live sightings and 23 were road kills. Gray fox per respondent numbered 0.48 in 2014, which is above the long-term average of 0.46 gray fox per respondent (Figure 7).

Gray Wolf

Thirty-two field personnel observed 67 gray wolves in 2014. Fifty-nine (59) were live sightings and 8 were road kill. Gray wolves observed per respondent numbered 0.50 in 2014, which is below the long-term average of 0.53 (Figure 8).

Jack Rabbit

No jack rabbits were observed in 2014, the long-term average is 0.02 (Figure 9).

Red Fox

Ninety-nine field personnel observed 392 red foxes in 2014. Two hundred and seventy-eight (278) were live sightings and 114 were road kills. Red fox observed per respondent was 2.93 in 2014, which is below the long-term average of 4.26 red fox per respondent (Figure 10).

River Otter

Fifty-two field personnel observed 190 river otters in 2014. One hundred and seventy (170) were live sightings and 20 were road kills. River otters observed per respondent in 2014 was 1.42, which is below the long-term average of 1.95 otters per respondent (Figure 11).

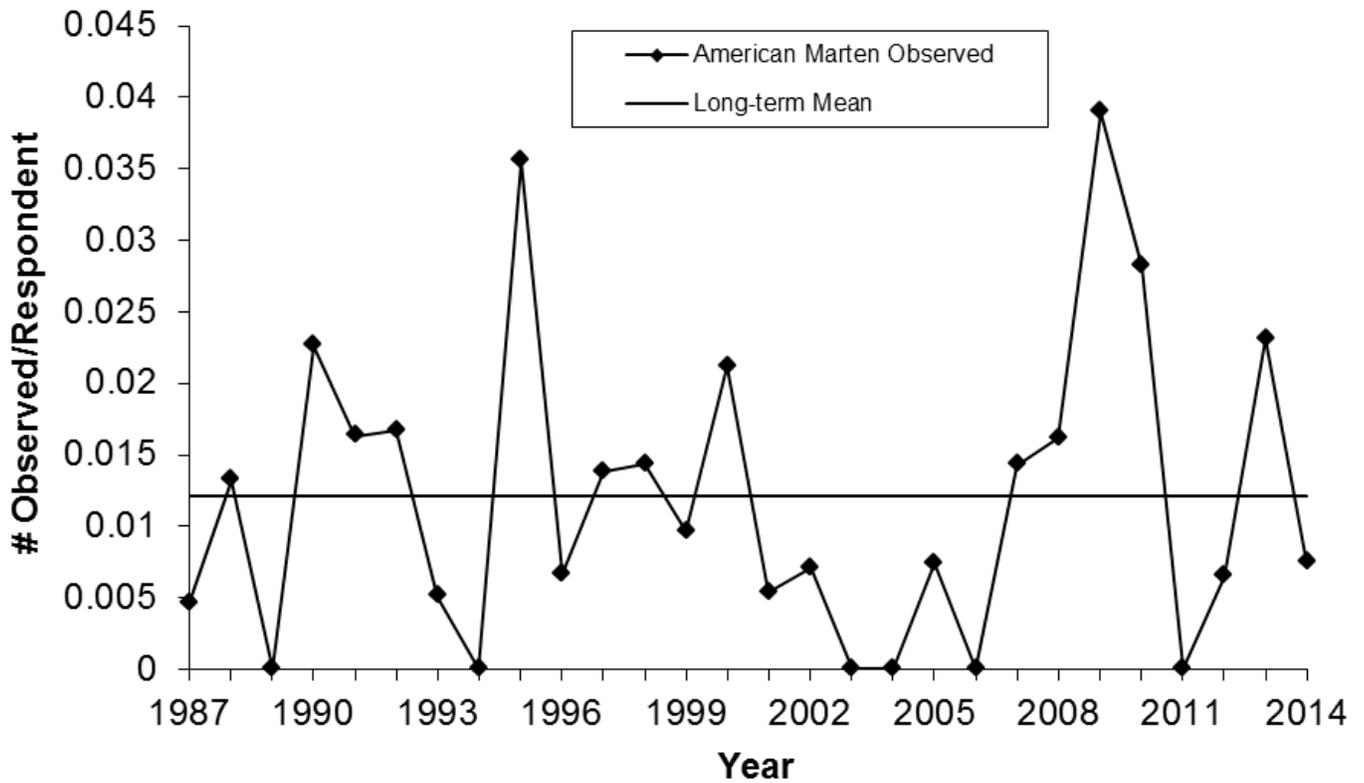


Figure 1. Number of American martens seen per respondent 1987-2014.

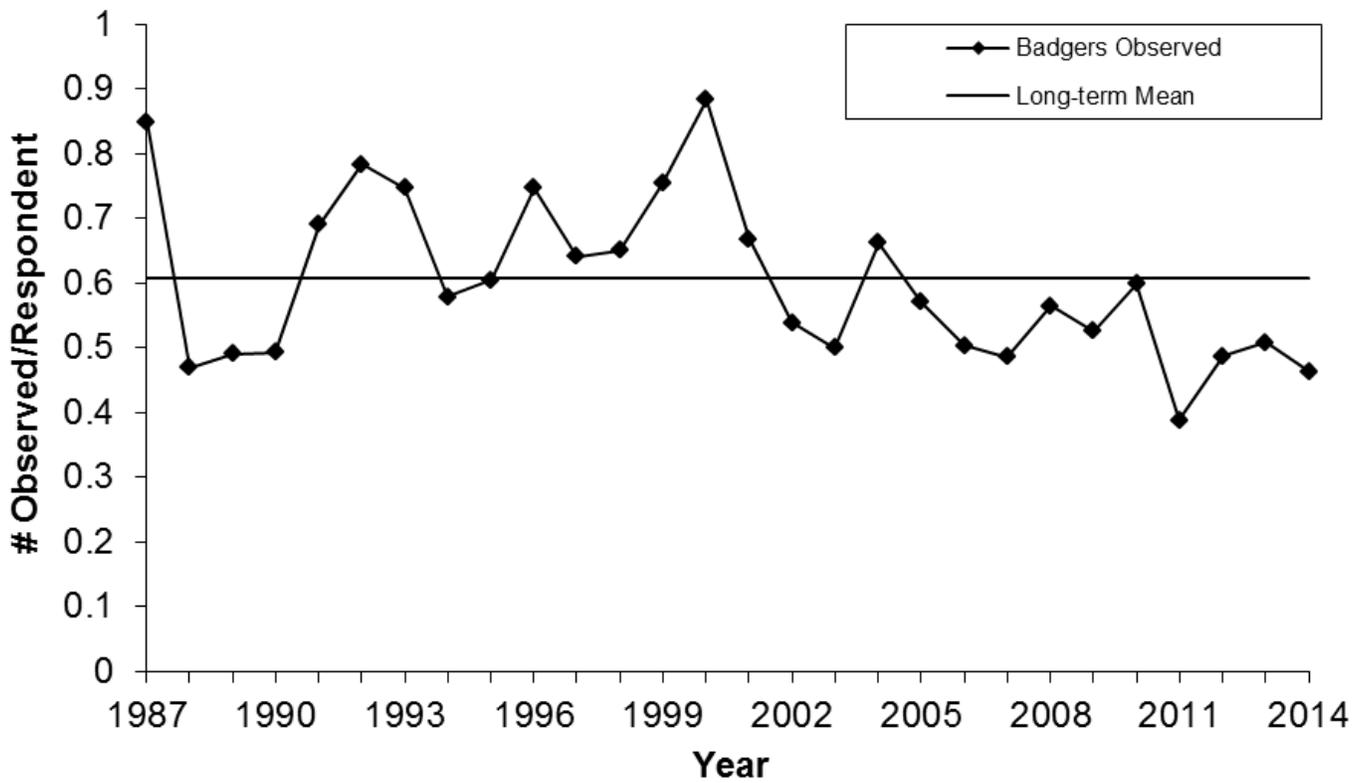


Figure 2. Number of badgers seen per respondent 1987-2014.

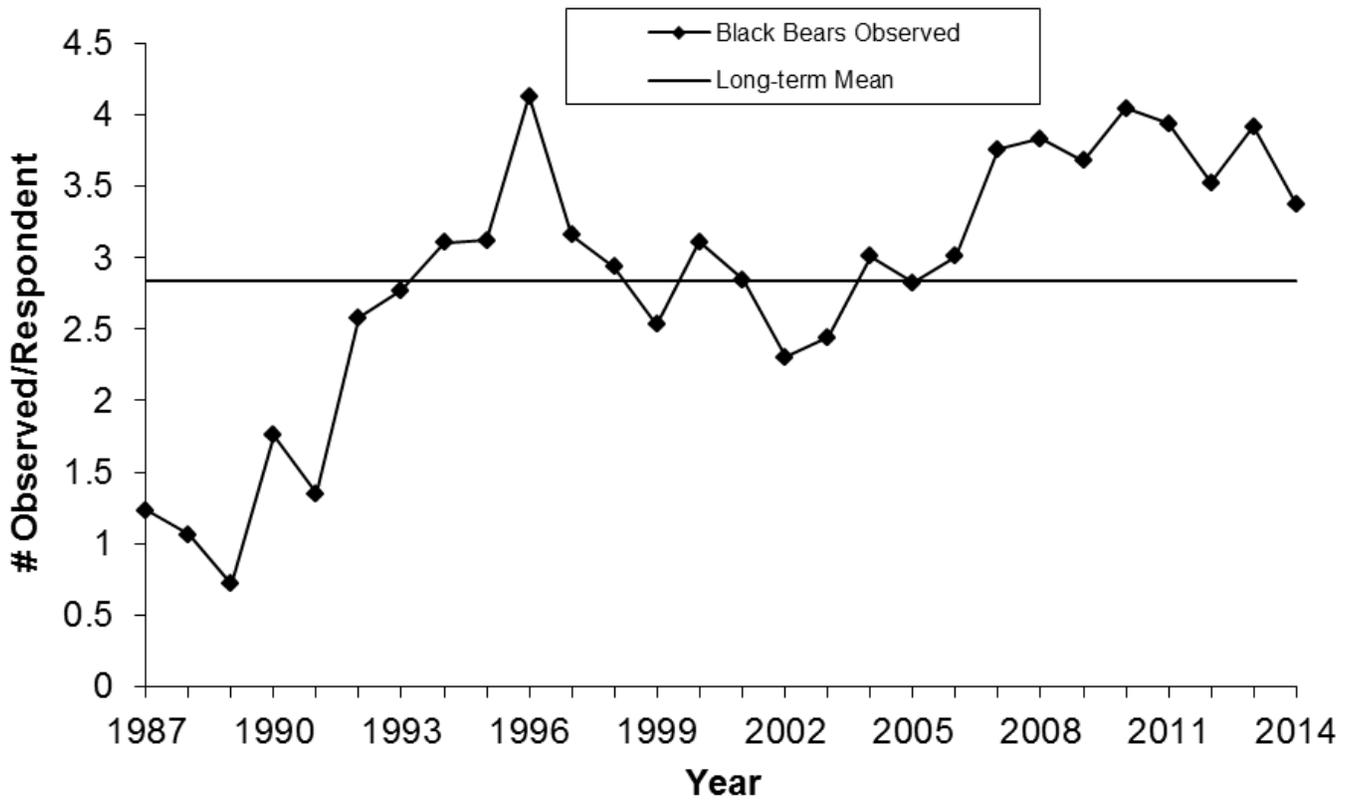


Figure 3. Number of black bears seen per respondent 1987-2014.

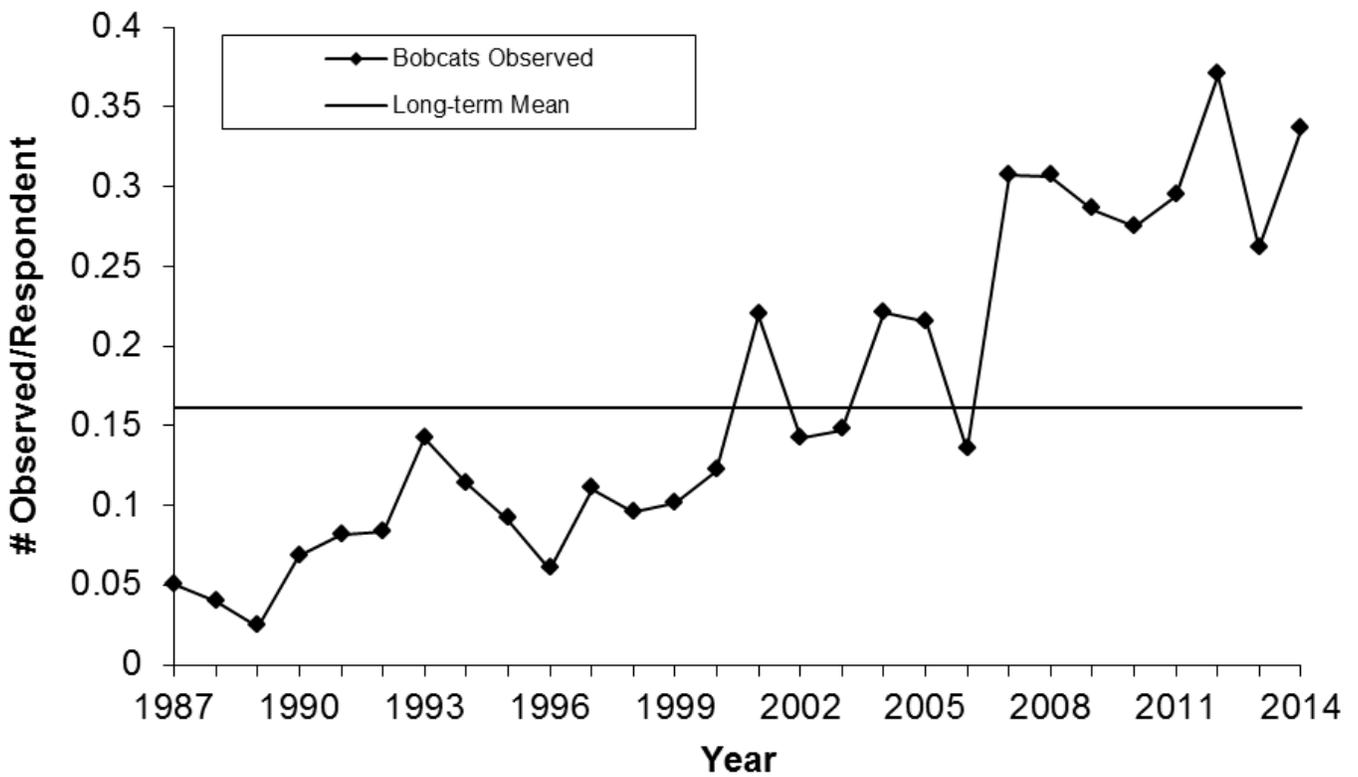


Figure 4. Number of bobcats seen per respondent 1987-2014.

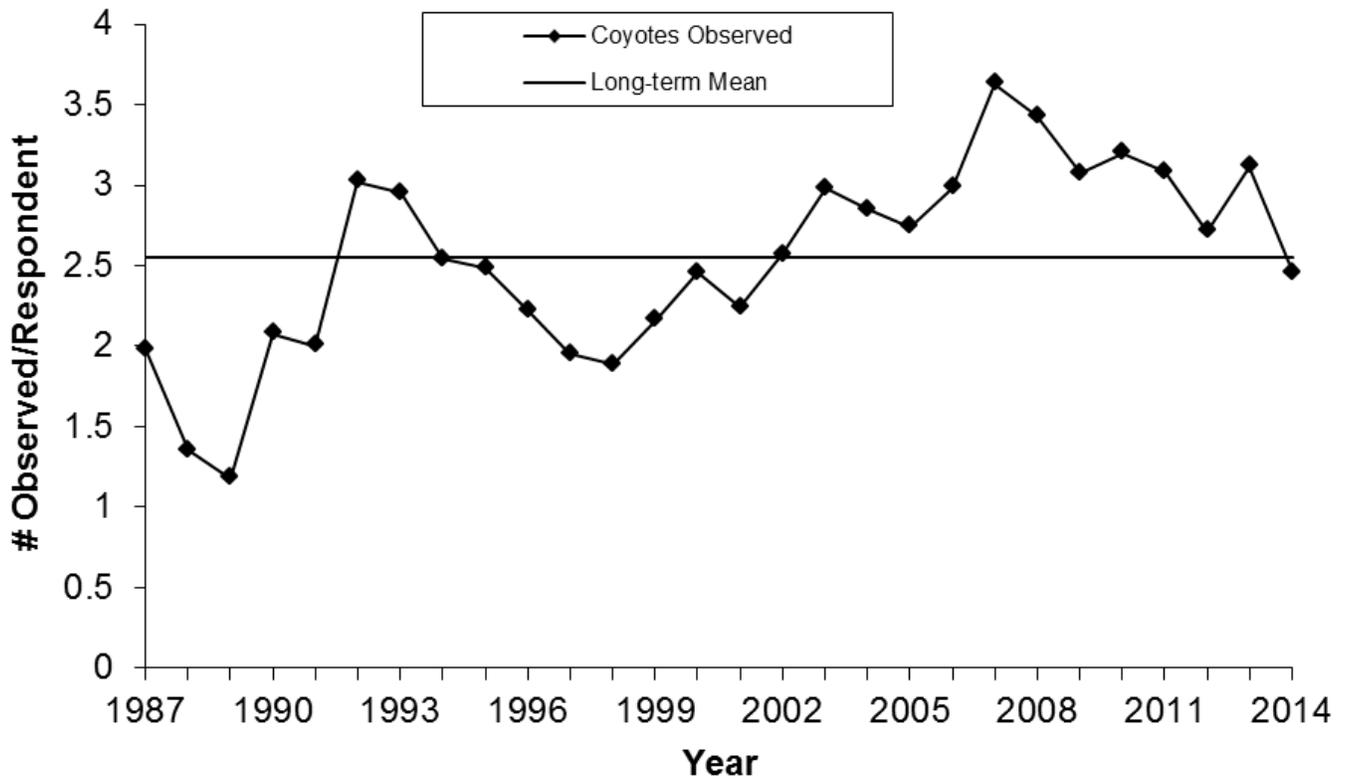


Figure 5. Number of coyotes seen per respondent 1987-2014.

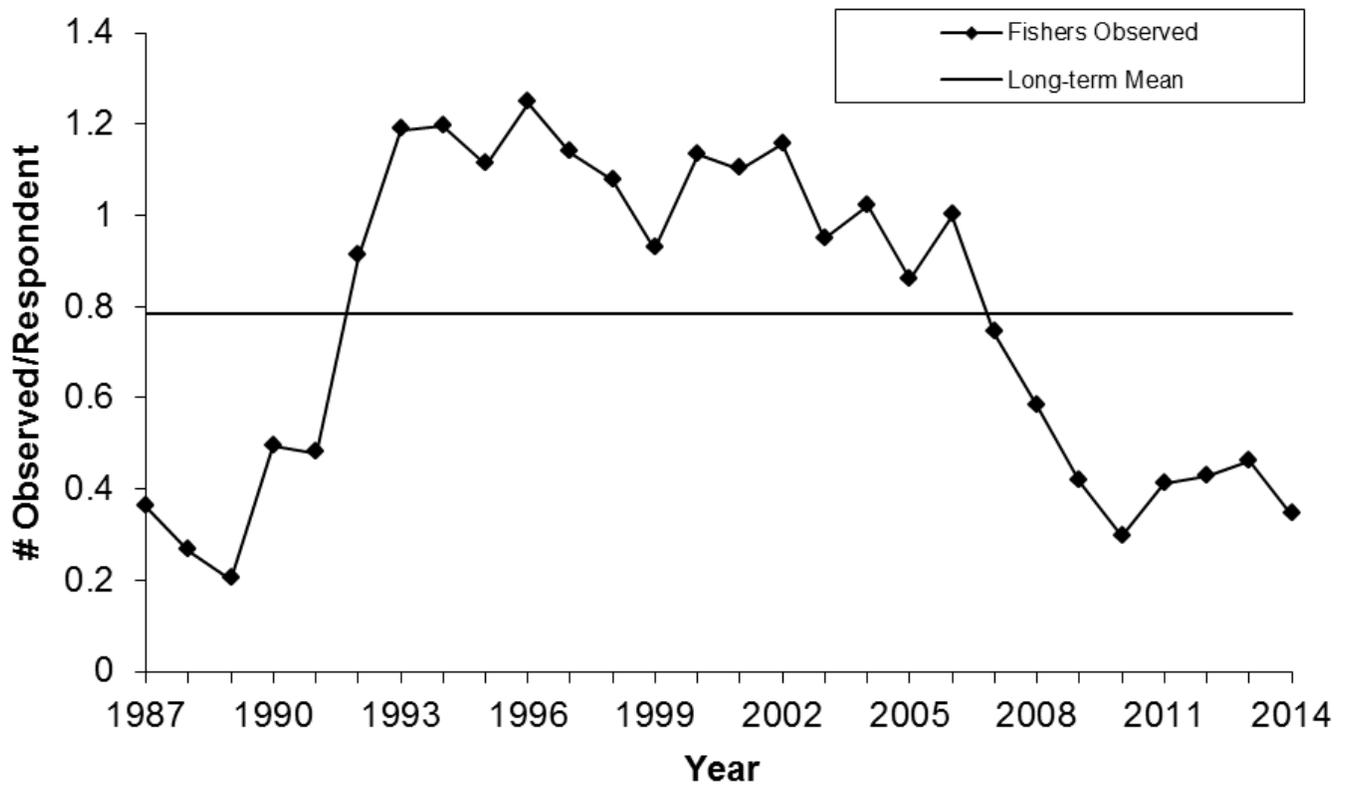


Figure 6. Number of fishers seen per respondent 1987-2014.

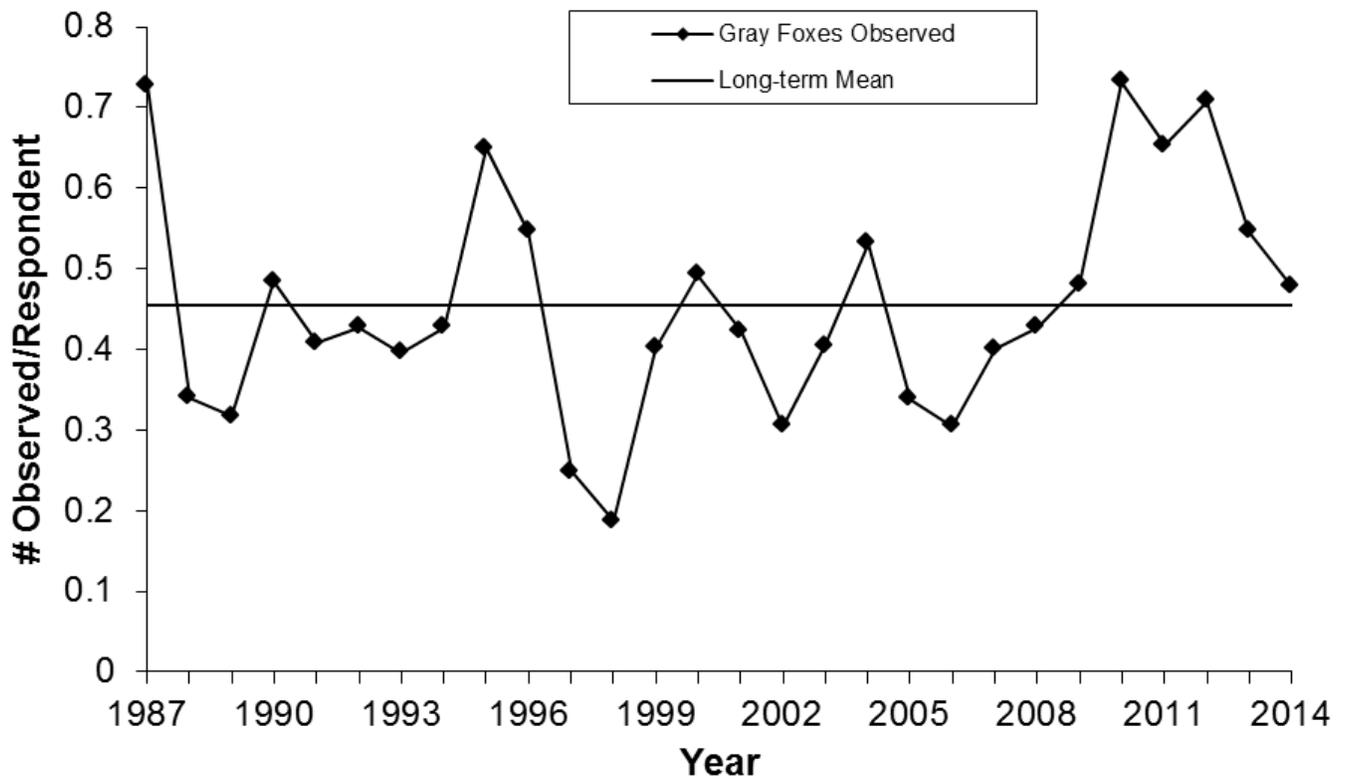


Figure 7. Number of gray foxes seen per respondent 1987-2014.

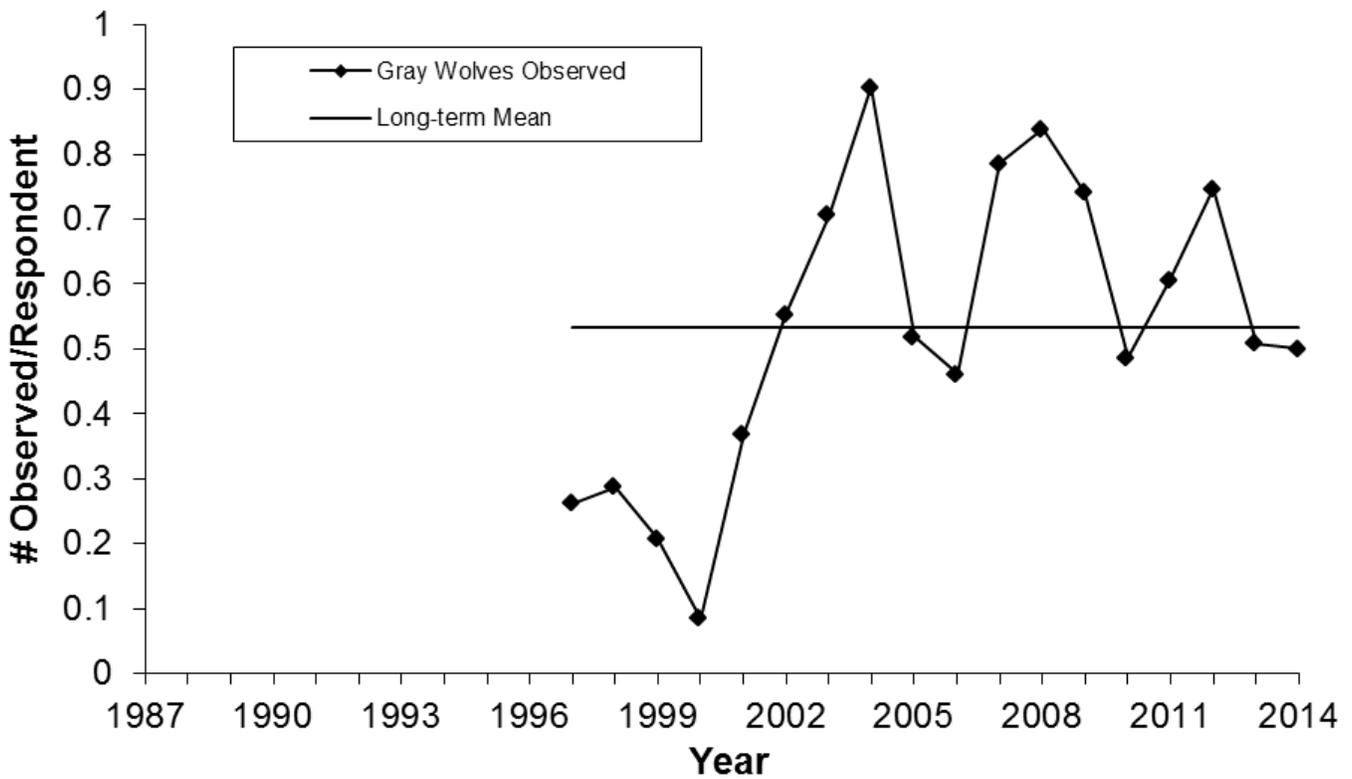


Figure 8. Number of gray wolves seen per respondent, 1997-2014.

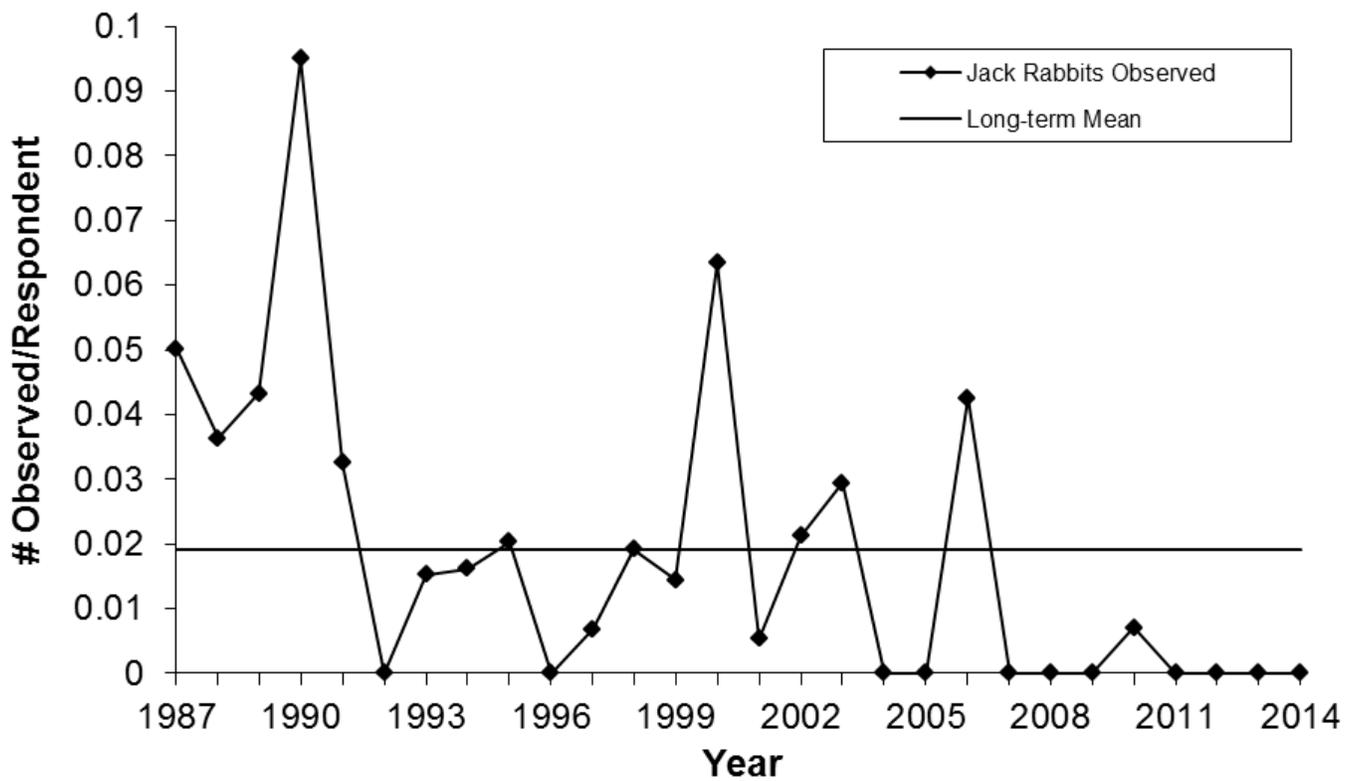


Figure 9. Number of jack rabbits seen per respondent 1987-2014.

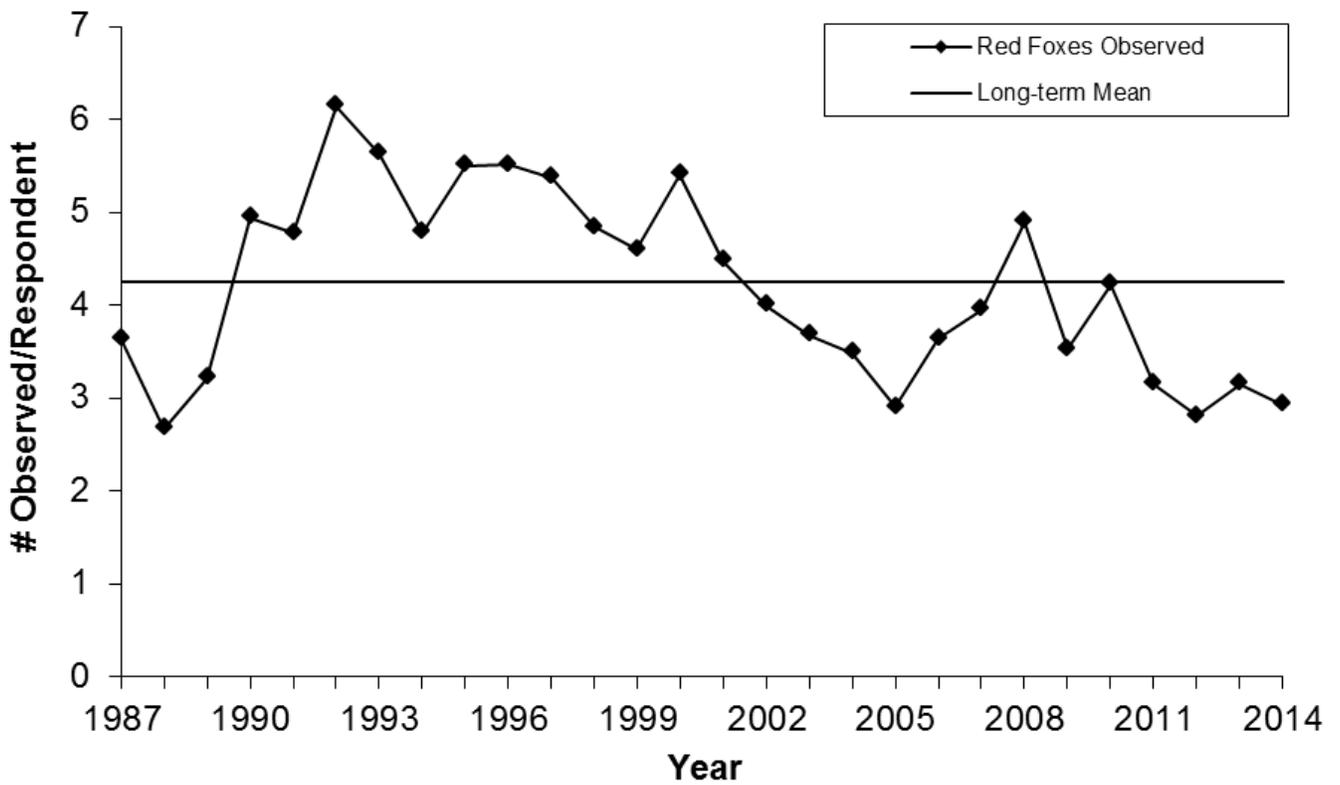


Figure 10. Number of red foxes seen per respondent 1987-2014.

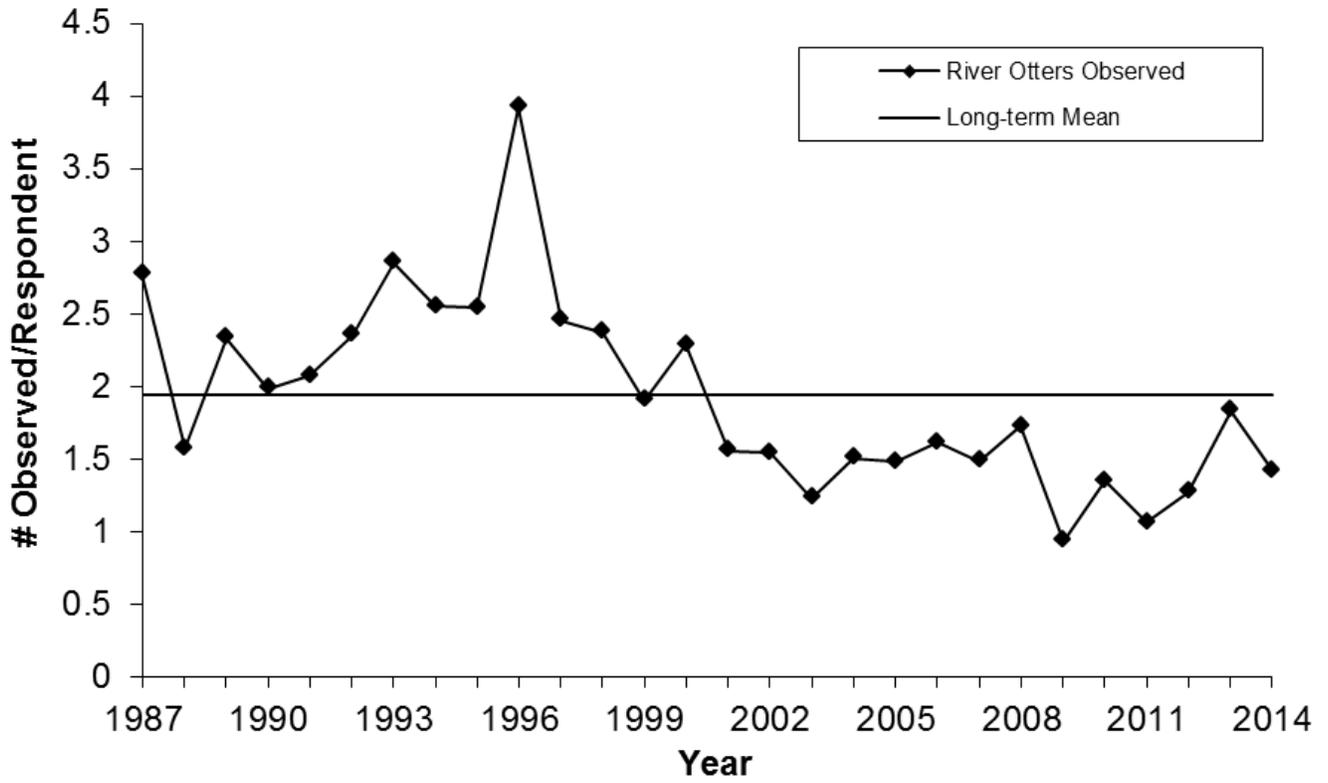


Figure 11. Number of river otters seen per respondent 1987-2014.