

Web site # 1

Wildlife Status Reports - Alberta Sustainable Resource Development - Windows Internet Explorer

<http://www.srd.gov.ab.ca/fishwildlife/status/swfox/index.html>

Swift Fox

(*Vulpes velox*)

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Wayne Lynch©

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Swift Fox (*Vulpes velox*) is currently listed as an "endangered" species in Alberta and is fully protected under the Wildlife Act. Nationally, the Swift Fox was listed as "extirpated" by the Committee on the Status of Wildlife in Canada in 1978. Although abundance and range are also greatly reduced in the United States, the Swift Fox is not presently listed under the U.S. Endangered Species legislation.

Native to short and mixed-grass prairie regions, the Swift Fox began to decline as native grasslands were converted to agricultural lands in the late 1800s. Loss of habitat combined with interspecific competition, primarily from Coyotes (*Canis latrans*), vulnerability to trapping and poisoning programs, and severe climate conditions contributed to the extirpation of the Swift Fox from Canada by the late 1930s.

Alberta Environment
Alberta
Alberta Conservation Association

Status of the Swift Fox
(*Vulpes velox*)
in Alberta

Susan E. Cotterill

Alberta Wildlife Status Report No. 7

Done Internet 100%

<http://www.srd.gov.ab.ca/fishwildlife/status/swfox/index.html>

Web Site # 1: Answers

Who posted the information?

This information comes from the government of Alberta's wildlife protection department. You can tell this by looking at the government symbols and contact information on the page.

What kind of information is this?

This is a report on the swift fox population in Alberta.

Should you use this information in your report? Put your sticker on the answer you agree with: yes, no, or more digging is needed.

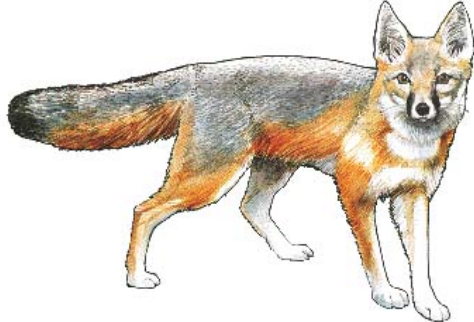
Web Site # 2

Swift Fox: Vulpes Velox - Windows Internet Explorer

http://raysweb.net/specialplaces/pages/fox.html

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Swift Fox: Vulpes ...



The Swift Fox [Vulpes Velox]

My interest in the Swift Fox, the smallest of North America's wild dogs, was generated when my daughter decided to write about them as a school project. "Once we numbered in the thousands, but now we are bones and dirt," she wrote in her essay entitled [I am a Swift Fox](#).


Few Canadians realize that this marvelous, cat-sized canine was extinct in all of Canada until about two decades ago when attempts were first made to reintroduce them.

The return of the Swift Fox is a marvelous tale of the human spirit -- and the people whose homepages you will see below who have given their lives to reintroducing them. And, if you want to help, their links will lead you to how you can do so.

Status: Endangered. Swift fox disappeared entirely from Canada in the early 1900s. Reintroduction programs in the last 15 years have established a small population of 150-200 in the southern prairies of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Size: Smallest of the North American wild dogs. An adult weighs 2 to 3 kilograms.

Lifespan: In the wild, three to six years. In captivity, they live for up to 14 years.



Risk factors: Foxes are curious and have little fear of people so they're easy to kill. In the early 1900s, hundreds were destroyed accidentally during predator control programs aimed at removing wolves, coyotes and ground squirrels from the prairies. Some people continue to mistake them for young coyotes and kill them. Habitat loss due to agricultural, industrial and urban development also reduced their numbers. Dens were ploughed over and native grasses replaced with tall cereal crops that are unsuitable for foxes or their food.



If you would like to help the Swift Fox to recover in Alberta, visit the web pages of the [Cochrane Ecological Institute](#) to learn how.

<http://raysweb.net/specialplaces/pages/fox.html>



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Web Site # 2: Answers

Who posted the information?

This information comes from a personal Web site posted by a person named Ray who enjoys nature.

What kind of information is this?

This is an essay Ray has written on the swift fox in Alberta.

Should you use this information in your report? Put your sticker on the answer you agree with: yes, no, or more digging is needed.

Web Site # 3

The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window displaying the Wildlife Preservation Canada website. The address bar shows the URL <http://www.wptc.org/wildlife/swiftfox.php>. The website header includes the Wildlife Preservation Canada logo and the tagline "RECOVERY • CONSERVATION • KNOWLEDGE". A navigation menu contains links for HOME, ABOUT US, WILDLIFE RECOVERY, CONSERVATION PROGRAMS, HOW YOU CAN HELP, and DONATE NOW. On the left, a sidebar lists various species: Burrowing Owl, Dominican species, Eastern Loggerhead Shrike, Echo Parakeet, Mauritius Fody, Mauritius Kestrel, Pink Pigeon, Spiny Softshell Turtle, Swift Fox, Vancouver Island Marmot, Woolly Spider Monkey, and Field reports. The main content area features the "SWIFT FOX" section with the scientific name *Vulpes velox*. It includes a "Description" paragraph, a "Original range" paragraph, and two photographs of the fox: one in winter and one in a natural habitat. Below the photos is a "Swift Fox field reports" section with three links to reports from November 2001, a talk by Axel Moehrensclager, and a report from December 2000. A box on the right lists "WPC'S Swift Fox Census Program Partners" with four links: Alberta Environmental Protection, Calgary Zoo, Centre for Conservation Research, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Parks Canada, and Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management. The browser's status bar at the bottom shows "Internet" and "100%" zoom.

<http://www.wptc.org/wildlife/swiftfox.php>



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Web Site # 3: Answers

Who this information?

This information comes from a not-for-profit organization called Wildlife Preservation Canada, which has been protecting animals and training young scientists since 1985. If you were looking at this website online, you would click on the “about us” button, which takes you to a page that explains what this organization is all about and lists all of its partners and supporters.

What kind of information is this?

This is an information page about the swift fox.

Should you use this information in your report? Put your sticker on the answer you agree with: yes, no, or more digging is needed.

Web Site # 4



Swift Fox
By Sarah

APPEARANCE: The Swift Fox is a member of the dog family and related to the coyotes, wolves, dogs and other foxes. The Swift fox is extirpated from Manitoba. There is a small group of 150-200 on the southern prairies of Alberta and Saskatchewan. The Swift fox got its name from how swiftly it runs. The Swift fox weighs up to 2 or 3 kilograms. It grows to be about the size of a house cat. The Swift fox's throat, shoulders, chest, back of ears and legs is a light buff. It also has black patches by its nose. The Swift fox's under fur is thick. The guard hairs are spread out. The Swift fox's forehead, back and tail is gray. Inside of its ears is white. Its summer coat is thin and its winter coat is thick for warmth.

HABITAT: The Swift fox lives in dens. They live on mixed grass prairies and shrubby deserts. They live in Southern Alberta, Northern Texas and Western New Mexico.

FOOD: The Swift fox eats small animals, reptiles, amphibians, meadow larks and lark buntings. They will also eat fish, insects, mice and grasshoppers. Sometimes they'll eat berries and grasses.

WHY EXTIRPATED? The Swift fox is extirpated because it's hunted for its fur. Farmers turn their habitat into farmland. They often are poisoned or caught in traps set out for other animals.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. "Swift fox." Hinterland Who's Who Ottawa: Canadian Wildlife Service, 1993.
2. Rasmussen, Ray " Swift Fox" Canadian Green Links <http://www.doe.ca/envcan/docs/fox/fox.html>
3. "Swift fox" World book Multimedia Encyclopedia Chicago: 1996 CD ROM

Description

Size: about the size of a house cat

Weight: 2-3 kg

Color: brown

http://www.wsd1.org/ralphbrown/Endangered%20Animals/swift_fox.htm



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Web Site # 4: Answers

Who posted the information?

This information was written by a student named Sarah. You can tell this by looking at the name under the title.

What kind of information is this?

This is a paper about the swift fox.

Should you use this information in your report? Put your sticker on the answer you agree with: yes, no, or more digging is needed.



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