



yukon wildlife preserve

December 2, 2022

We are saddened to report the passing of a young male lynx. On November 30, 2022, Animal Care staff found the deceased male lynx on their regular morning rounds. The lynx was wedged between two trees, likely due to falling or slipping while climbing between them.

This is the third of a litter of three lynx kittens born June 20, 2021 to pass away. The [female lynx passed away Nov 5, 2021](#) and the other [male lynx kitten passed away Dec 6, 2021](#). Despite extensive lab testing, the Preserve's Animal Care team led by Dr. Maria Hallock, was not able to conclusively determine the causes of two deaths last year.

In the case of this lynx, the cause of death is apparent. Wedged between two trees, the lynx was unable to free itself and succumbed to a combination of its injuries and the cold temperatures. Nevertheless, Dr. Maria has conducted a necropsy and sent out samples for testing. The necropsy confirmed the lynx was in good health. Test results are not expected to turn up any new or conflicting information.

This male had sustained a leg injury in summer 2021 which required extensive rehabilitation to regain the use of his leg. It is possible that this previous injury resulted in a deficiency in the lynx's mobility, which may have contributed to this unusual fall. However, it's also possible that brittle, cold branches broke unexpectedly under his weight. Unfortunately it's impossible to know exactly what transpired.

Animal Care staff observe each of the lynx daily. They are observing them to look for any signs of potential health problems, and to ensure they each receive food. The day prior (Nov 30), Animal Care staff observed the kitten in good health.

"This was heartbreaking," said Executive Director Jake Paleczny. "We had spent so much time with this lynx as a kitten when he was injured. It's especially hard for our team to lose animals that we've worked so closely with and know so well."

The Yukon Wildlife Preserve is a zoological institution and a non-profit charity dedicated to connecting our visitors with the natural world. As ambassadors of the Yukon Wildlife Preserve's animals, lands, and operations, the operating society proudly maintains populations of 11 species of Yukon wildlife in large natural habitats. The society also conducts educational programming and funds a wildlife rehabilitation program for Yukon's injured and orphaned wildlife. The facilities and the level of care provided to the Preserve's animals successfully meets the stringent criteria of Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums, to which the Yukon Wildlife Preserve is a long-time member.

For more information:

Jake Paleczny
Executive Director
Yukon Wildlife Preserve
867-456-7313
jake@yukonwildlife.ca