

# THE LYNX



◆ Unique original artwork for the 1974 stamp from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

**PURPOSE & SCOPE:** This single frame thematic exhibit is a study of the Genus Lynx of the Family Felidae, and its four species – the Eurasian lynx, the Iberian lynx, the Canada lynx, and the Bobcat. The storyline is illustrated by an assortment of philatelic elements, such as various stamps, machine generated postage, postal stationery, covers, maximum cards, cancellations, errors, proofs, essays, pre-production articles, and labels.

**ORGANIZATION & TREATMENT:** The exhibit consists of four chapters dedicated to the each species of the lynx, and the final chapter observes the cultural depictions of lynxes. Each chapter examines the appearance, size, habitat, distribution, diet, social system, and reproduction of all four lynx species, as well as the protection, conservation efforts and reintroduction of these beautiful wild cats. All scarce and important items are identified by ◆. The narrative is printed in a large size font, and the philatelic information is printed in a small size font.

## PLAN OF THE EXHIBIT

Introduction: What is a lynx? 1. Eurasian lynx 2. Iberian lynx 3. Canada lynx 4. Bobcat 5. Lynxes in culture

## INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS A LYNX?

A lynx is any of the four species within the Lynx genus of medium-sized wild cats. The Eurasian lynx is native to forests of Europe, Siberia, and Central Asia. The Eurasian lynx is the largest in size among all lynx species.



1998 Slovenian illustrated postal card with non-denominated indicium for domestic postal card service rate

The Iberian lynx is native to Iberian Peninsula and it is the most endangered wild cat species in the world.

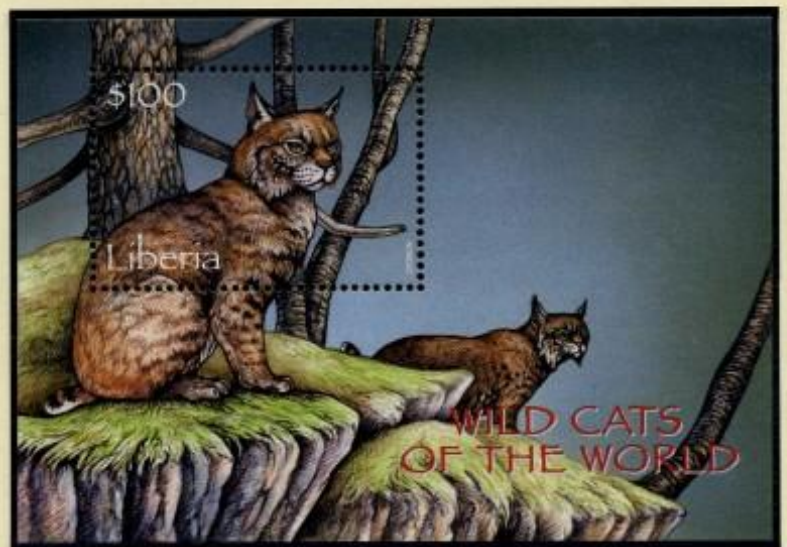


The Canada lynx is a North American wild cat that ranges in forests and tundra across Canada, Alaska, and parts of the northern United States.



Conservation stamp  
of the National  
Wildlife Federation

The Bobcat is another North American felid widespread throughout southern Canada, the continental United States, and northern Mexico.



# 1. EURASIAN LYNX

The Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) has long legs, large paws, short tail, and large triangular ears tipped with tufts of black hair. Both males and females have a ruff of long hair around their neck and coat with well-defined dark spots.



Stamp with brown color omitted

Males usually weigh from 40 to 66 pounds and females from 18 to 46 pounds. The Eurasian lynx ranging in length from 31 to 51 inches and standing about 24 to 30 inches at the shoulder. The tail measures 4.3 to 9.6 inches in length.



Pictorial first day cancellation



Advertising meter slogan stamp



The color of the shorter summer coat is reddish-brown, and the thicker winter coat varies from silver-gray to grayish-brown. The chest, neck and throat are usually white.



Maximum card

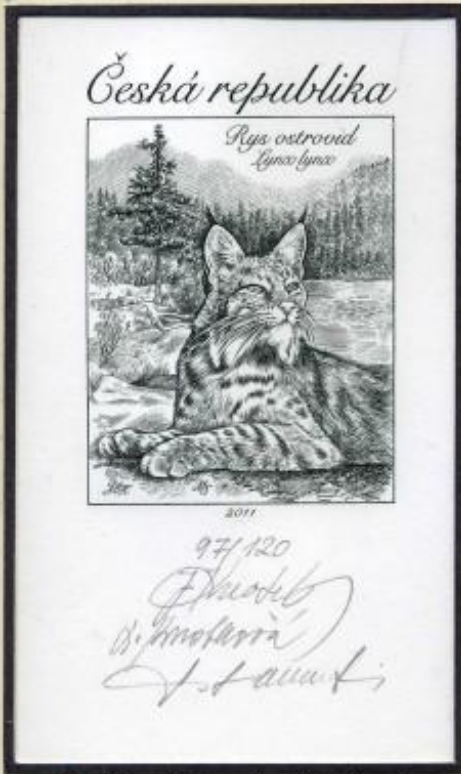
# 1. EURASIAN LYNX

The vast geographic area of the Eurasian lynx extends from Sweden, Norway and Finland in the northwest south to the Iberian Peninsula.



Distribution map of the Eurasian lynx

Lynxes roam all over the western Europe eastward through northern Italy, Czech Republic, Austria and Poland.



◆ Black artist proof of 2011 Czech Republic stamp. #97 out of 120



In Europe to the south it ranges throughout Carpathians and Balkans, and it is the national animal of Romania and Macedonia.



Pictorial commemorative cancellation ⇨

The Eurasian lynx also ranges from Belarus across Russia to northeast Siberia, Kamchatka and Sakhalin Island.



# 1. EURASIAN LYNX

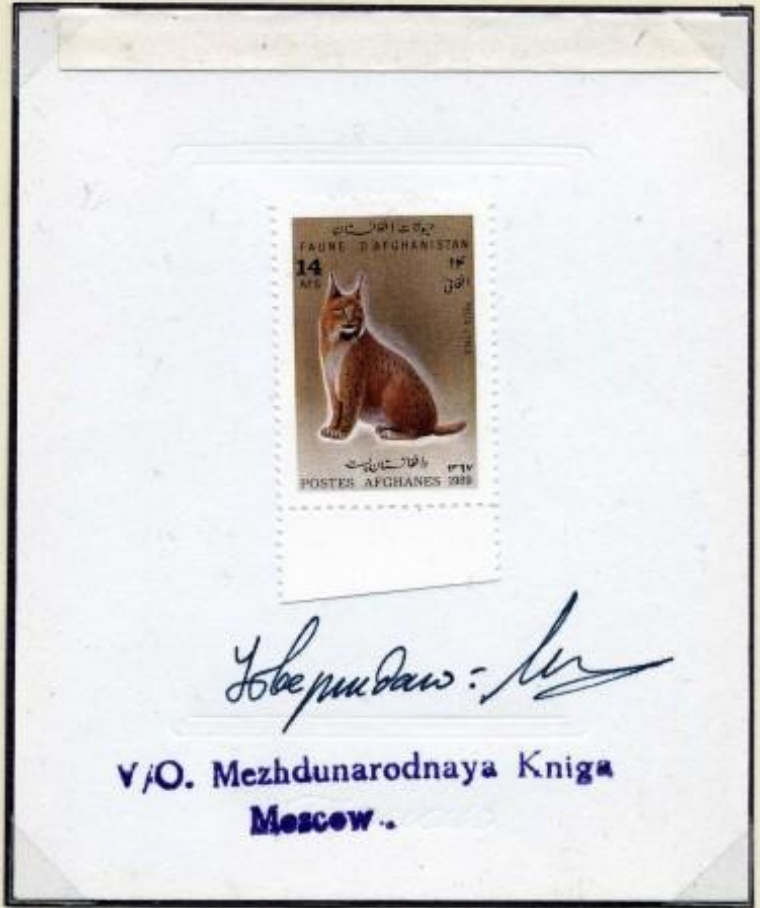
The Eurasian lynx are found in Caucasus, mountains of Armenia, Asia Minor, and east to northern Iran and Iraq. Lynxes of above ranges tend to have bright reddish coats.



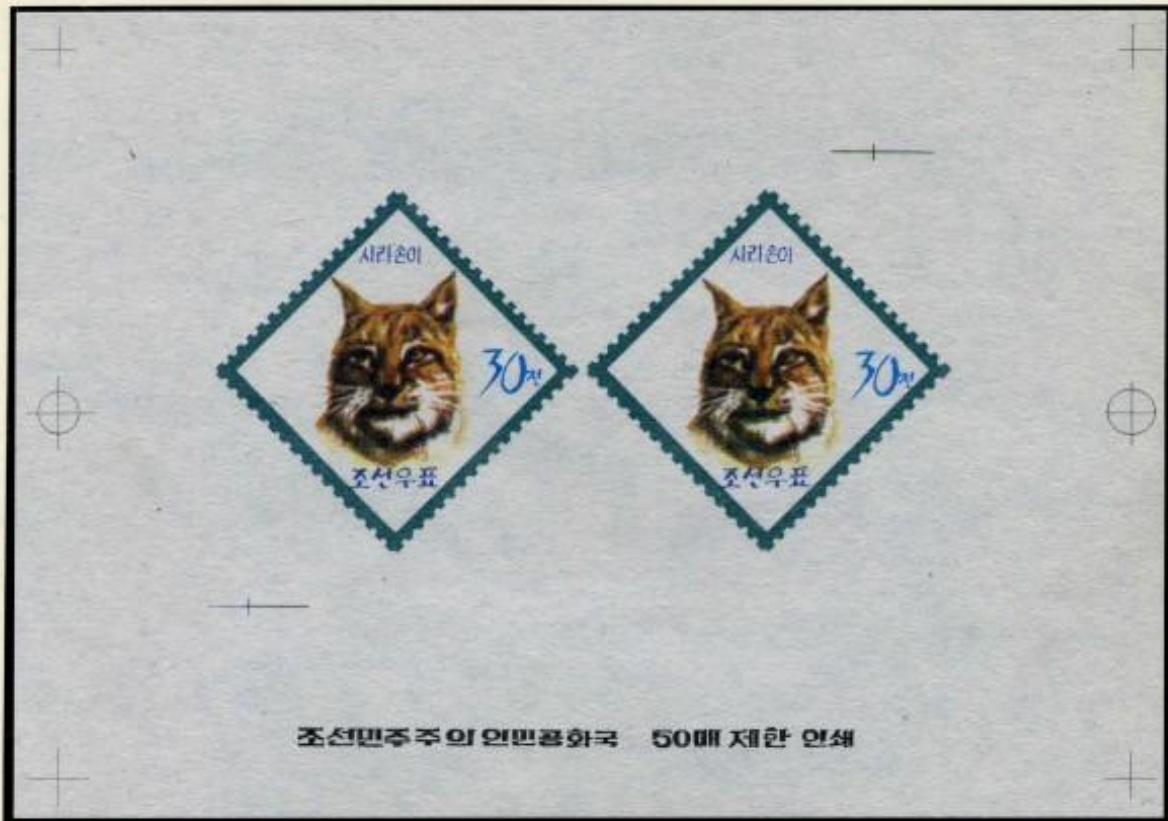
To the east, it ranges through Tian Shan to all Central Asian states, northern Afghanistan, and parts of Kashmir.



To the south lynx are found in Mongolia, Manchuria, Korea, northern China, as well as in Nepal, southeastern Tibet, and Bhutan.



◆ Endorsed proof of 1989 stamp of Afghanistan with a seal and signature of an official from the "International Book" in Moscow.



◆ Proof of one of the four stamps from the 1974 souvenir sheet of Democratic People's Republic of Korea

# 1. EURASIAN LYNX

The Eurasian lynx prefers a mixed or deciduous forest with plenty of dense undergrowth and cover. However, the Eurasian lynx is an adaptable cat and can live in rocky areas, open forests, and even scrub and brushy areas.



1965 Romanian illustrated stamped envelope with 55 bani definitive indicium for domestic letter rate

The lynx main method of hunting is stalking, sneaking and jumping on prey, and among the main prey items for the Eurasian lynx are hares and rabbits, as well as small ungulates, such as chamois, roe deer and wild boar.



Imperforated proof



Pictorial commemorative cancellation



Imperforated proof



Imperforated local stamp

# 1. EURASIAN LYNX

Lynx have a social organization that is similar to other solitary felids, in which males occupy large home ranges and one or more females reside within each male's area. There are about one to three adults per 60 square miles.



Personalized stamp

The mating season for Eurasian lynx lasts from January to April. Females give birth to one to four kittens. The cubs nurse for five months, but begin eating solid food when they are six weeks old.



Pictorial first day cancellation

The den is abandoned two to three months after the kittens are born, but the cubs stay with their mother until they are ten months of age.



1969 illustrated stamped envelope from the USSR with 4 kopecks domestic letter rate definitive indicium

# 1. EURASIAN LYNX

Eradicated from many parts of their former range in Europe, intensively hunted for their fur, and considered a threat to other wildlife populations, lynx currently are restricted to forested areas of the European continent.



Lynx are afforded legal protection in most European countries, and there are restrictions where and when they can be hunted or trapped. Lynx have been reintroduced in Switzerland, France, Austria, Slovakia and Balkans. Zoos and wild parks play a vital role in conservation of the Eurasian lynx.

Pictorial first day cancellation



Fragment of corner card envelope with advertising slogan meter stamp of "Swarze Berge" wildlife park in Germany



## 2. IBERIAN LYNX

The Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) is considerably smaller than the Eurasian lynx, and has a much more heavily spotted shorter coat. However, both felines have very similar builds, such as long legs, short tails, and tufted ears.



In the mid-nineteenth century lynx were found in all parts of the Iberian Peninsula, but today they only inhabit two small areas in the south of Spain.



Distribution map of the Iberian lynx ↕

Pictorial first day cancellation

The number of the Iberian lynx dramatically declined due to the large conversion of native forest to pine and eucalyptus plantations in Spain and Portugal, and two myxomatosis epidemics among rabbit populations.



Spanish illustrated stamped envelope with a rate "A" indicium for national regular letters weighing up to 20 grams

## 2. IBERIAN LYNX

The Iberian lynx lives in wooded areas of mountain regions and in the sand dunes and scrub of the Coto Donana. Rabbits are the main food source of the Iberian lynx, but this cat also feeds on ducks and fallow deer fawns.

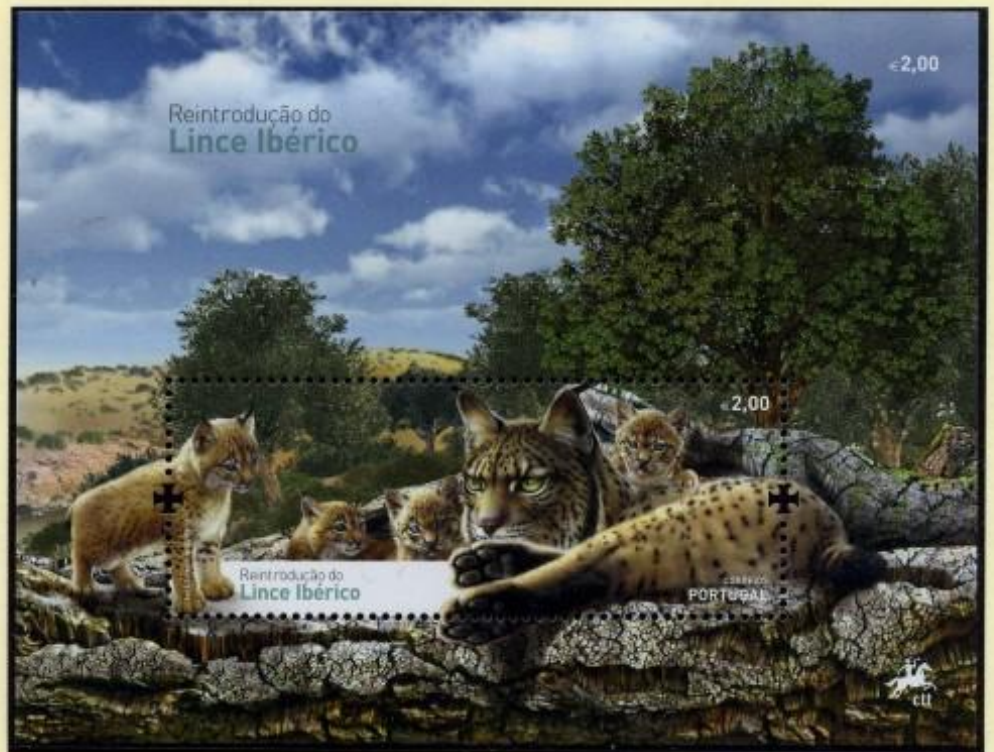


Social system and reproduction of the Iberian lynx are similar to the Eurasian lynx. The Iberian lynx is critically endangered and it is the world's most threatened species of wild cats and it is on the IUCN red list. The total population was estimated to be only 99 to 158 adults in 2008.



Illustrated meter slogan stamp

Beginning in 2009, the lynx was reintroduced in few areas of Spain and its population almost tripled. In 2014 a similar project was started in Portugal.



### 3. CANADA LYNX

The Canada lynx (*Lynx Canadensis*) is a North American feline, and it has a long thick silvery-brown fur with dark spots. This tall cat has long hind legs and large, densely furred paws, which prevents it sinking into deep snow.



Conservation stamp of the National Wildlife Federation

The Canada lynx is smaller than its Eurasian cousin, at a weight of 11 to 37 pounds, 30 to 42 inches in length, and a shoulder height of 19 to 22 inches. It has a furry ruff which resembles a double-pointed beard, a short tail with dark rings and a black tip, and long furry tufts on its ears.



Imperforated proof



Distribution map of the Canada lynx

The Canada lynx is found in mixed forests across Canada and Alaska. There are also large populations of this lynx in some parts of the northern United States.



◆ Progressive color proofs of 1977 stamp from Equatorial Guinea

### 3. CANADA LYNX

The Canada lynx lives in a variety of habitat types within the broad belt of boreal forest stretching from Newfoundland Alaska, and also in higher elevation areas with greater snow depth.

Canada lynx feed almost exclusively on snowshoe hares, but they also eat red squirrels, grouse and occasionally young beavers. In Newfoundland they prey widely on caribou fawns.



Advertising meter slogan stamp



Official free frank of Bad Biber, East Germany



Conservation stamp of Manitoba

Lynx are primarily nocturnal and solitary cats, but adult females with kittens have been known to hunt cooperatively. Lynx employ a variety of hunting methods, but more often from ambush.

The Canada lynx is trapped for its fur and has declined in many areas, such as Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and its northern US range.



Conservation stamp of Alberta



Booklet of conservation stamp of Quebec



## 4. BOBCAT

The Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) is a North American wild cat. It resembles other species of the Lynx genus, but is on average the smallest of the four. Bobcat has long legs relative to its body length, a small head, and a short tail.



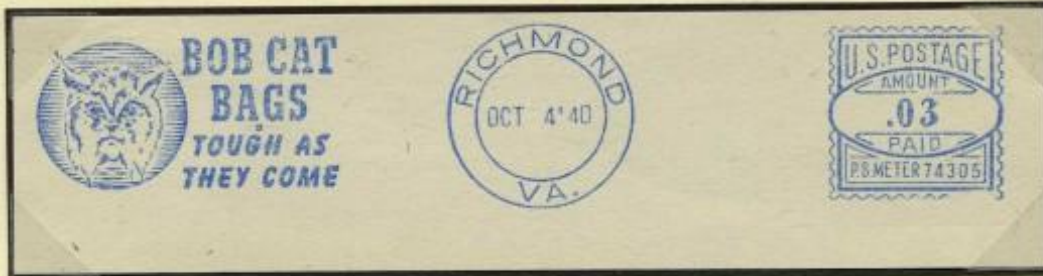
Stamp with black (engraved) omitted

Self-adhesive coil stamps

The bobcat is widely distributed from southern Canada to northern Mexico, including most of the continental United States. Bobcats in deserts of southwest have lighter coats, and those from northern forested regions are darker.



Distribution map of the bobcat



Advertising meter slogan stamp

Bobcats are found in a wide variety of habitats, including swamps and forests in the north, chaparral and desert scrub in the west, and brushlands and mixed agricultural areas in the south.



Conservation stamps of the National Wildlife Federation

## 4. BOBCAT

The bobcat hunts by stalking its prey and then ambushing it. Cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, and jackrabbit are the most common food of bobcats. However they also feed on muskrat, opossum, birds, snakes and even deer.



↑ Conservation stamp of National Wildlife Federation

The social system and reproduction of bobcats is relatively similar to the social organization, reproduction and development of Canada lynx.

Pictorial commemorative postmark ⇨



North Dakota resident furbearer stamp

When the legal trade in pelts of the large spotted cats stopped in 1975, the value of a lynx pelt rose, and harvest levels of bobcat fur from the Canada and United States rose dramatically, reaching over 84,000 in 1984.



1909 advertising proprietary envelope of William Weidiger, a dealer in hides and furs from Park Rapids, Minnesota

## 5. LYNXES IN CULTURE

Lynxes are not such prominent heraldic beasts as lions, but they appear on arms of some European states. They feature on arms of Raseiniai in Lithuania, Hame in Finland, Jekabpils in Latvia, and Gomel in Belarus.



Pictorial first day cancellation ⇨



Illustrated meter slogan stamp

Lynx is a community in northern Ohio, and it is named after lynx, which was common in the area.

The Accademia dei Lincei was founded in 1603 by Federico Cesi, and its symbol is a lynx, as in classical and medieval bestiaries it was reputed to see through rock and new walls.



Circular date stamp with type "P" four bar killer



Advertising meter slogan stamp ⇨

Bobcat company is an American-based manufacturer of farm and construction equipment. Company's slogan is "one tough animal".



## 5. LYNXES IN CULTURE

Lynxes, as nearly all wild felines, feature prominently in many pieces of art executed in wide variety of mediums. The illustrious "Glory of the Spain" fresco in the Royal Palace in Madrid by the great Venetian artist Giovanni Battista Tiepolo (1696-1770) include a bobcat in the fragment depicting the discovery of the Americas by Columbus.

**Cigarrón** is a traditional mask worn by folk dancers during the carnivals in Galician town of Verín in Spain. The mask extends to a metal turban with an image of an animal, such as lion, wolf, ox, cow or lynx.



Self-adhesive personalized stamp



A beautiful figurine of a lynx cub from the Kuskovo museum is a great example of the famous Russian porcelain.



1976 illustrated stamped envelope from the USSR with 4 kopecks domestic letter rate definitive indicium