



# Eurasian Lynx

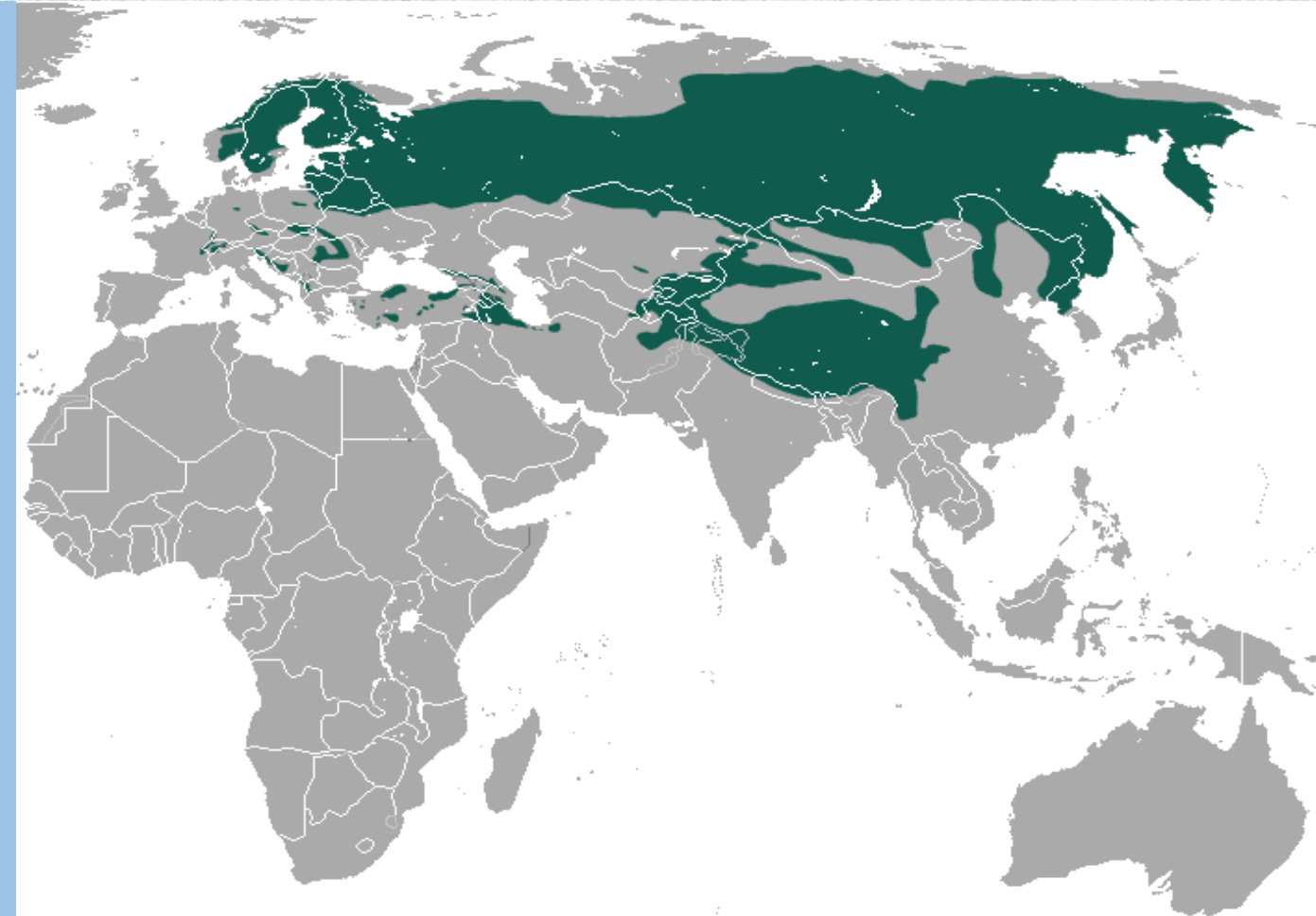
## *Lynx lynx*

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### Range and Habitat

- Found across Northern Europe and Asia with small pockets in central Europe and the Middle East.
- Primarily found in forests and mountains where prey can be found and cover is abundant.
- Prefer climate where large amounts of snow are present in the winter



### Diet

- The Eurasian Lynx varies its diet throughout the year depending on prey availability.
- Primary diet of small ungulates such as Roe Deer in the winter with Mountain Hare if deer are not present with European Hare being the primary food for like in Southern Europe.
- If conditions are right they will hunt Caribou when conditions are right.
- Known to prey on red fox, mustelids, and squirrels if primary prey are not abundant.
- Occasionally prey on domestic livestock such as sheep in summer months



### Reproduction

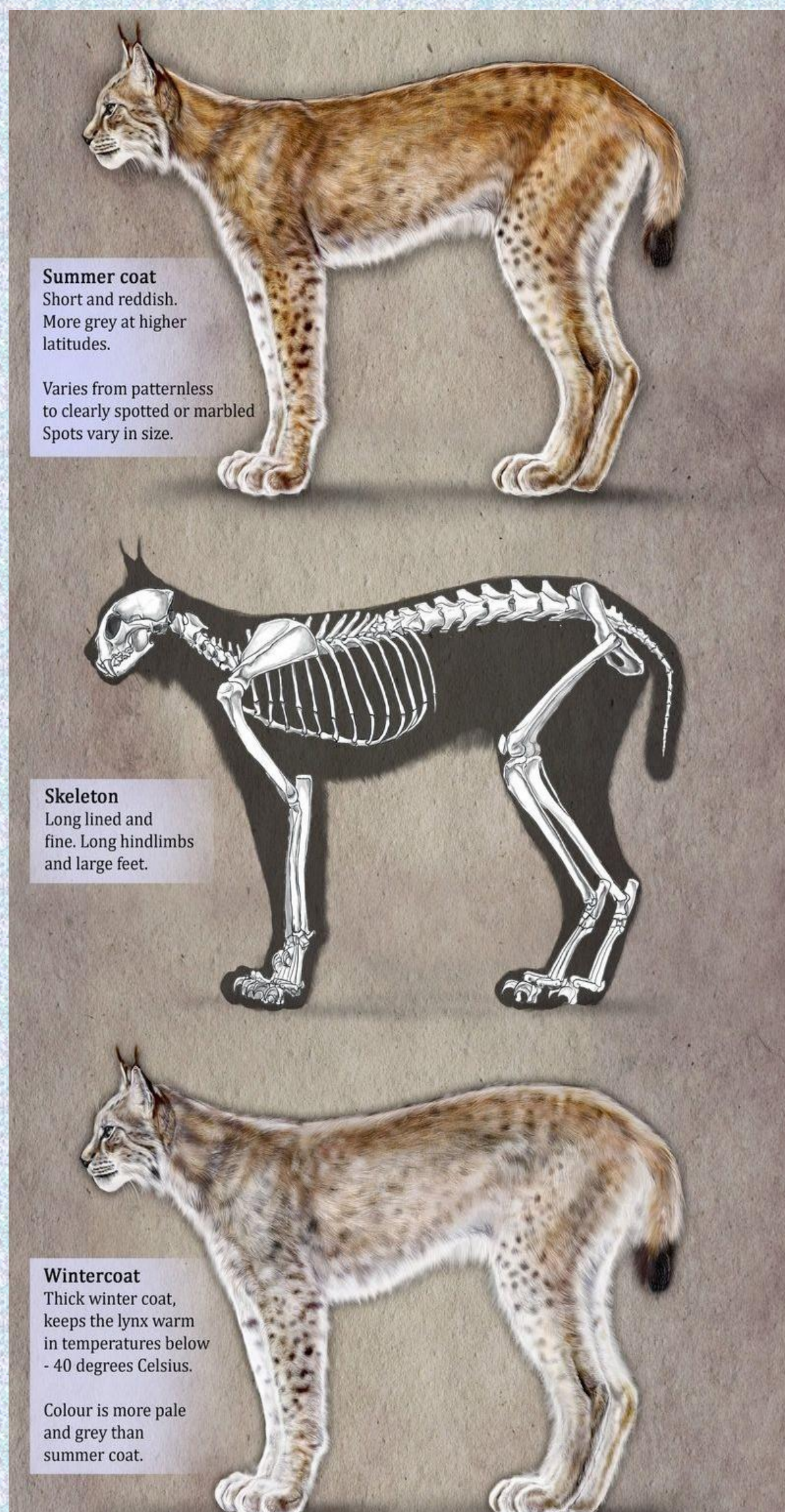
- Reproduction takes places between February and April with females producing pheromones in their urine and making calls to attract mates.
- Females gestate for ~70 days in secluded dens away from potential predators and providing a protected place for young.
- Often gives birth to two kitten per litter.
- Lynx kittens are nursed until week six where they start consuming solid food but not fully weaned until 5 months old.
- Dens are abandoned by the third month and young stick with their mother until around the 10 month mark.
- Reach sexual maturity after two to three years.

### Form and Function

- Long hind legs and large muscles allow for short bursts of speed and enable them to pounce on prey.
- Wide and large feet acting like snowshoes distributing their weight on the snow.
- Strong forelimb muscles enable the take down of larger prey such as ungulates.
- Thick fur during the winter allows for camouflage and protection from the cold.

### Sociality

- Generally solitary creatures similar to most other Felidae species.
- Occasionally hunt together or fight over prey.
- Males territory often has multiple females in it but females don't overlap with other females and males rarely overlap territory.
- Usually only interact during the breeding season for ~ 4 to 7 days.



### Conservation and Management

- The greatest threat facing Eurasian lynx is hunting, both legal and illegal.
- Another limiting factor is the fragmentation of forests in central Europe limiting habitat and movement.
- Most European countries have full protection of lynx from hunting or trapping.
- There are efforts to create migration corridors or reintroductions to increase populations number in certain areas.