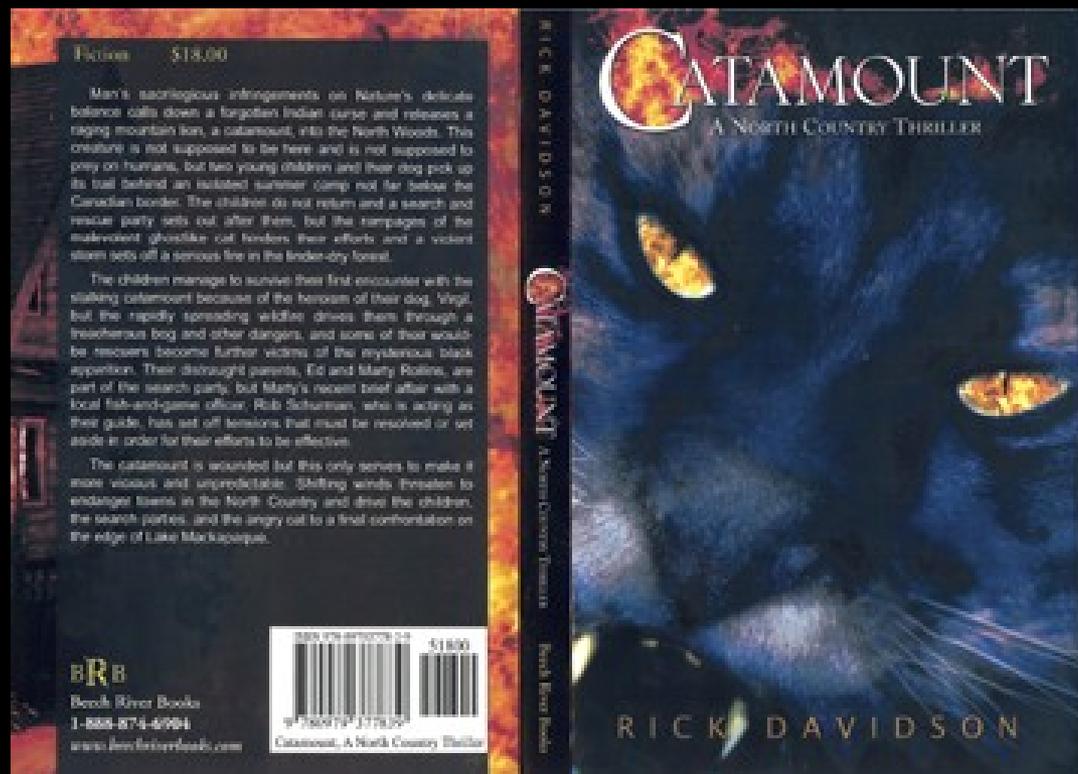


Mountain Lion Sightings Where They Shouldn't Be

Rick Davidson



Mountain Lion Tracks In Boscawen



"I'm not going to tell you that there aren't mountain lions here," said Eric Orff, a wildlife biologist with Fish and Game. "Nothing is out of the realm of possibility, but the probability is very small."

Photo by Georgio
<http://www.Flickr.com>

From the *Concord Monitor*
March 30, 2007 (by CHELSEA
CONABOY Monitor staff)

N.H. Fish And Game Department



Photo by Ahisgett
<http://www.Flickr.com>

“New Hampshire Fish and Game has its own paper record dating back to 1940.

In all that time, we've never been able to physically, with any type of evidence, validate any of these sighting,” said Eric Orff, the keeper of the record.

From the *Concord Monitor*
March 30, 2007 (by CHELSEA
CONABOY Monitor staff)

Brought To Extinction By Bounties

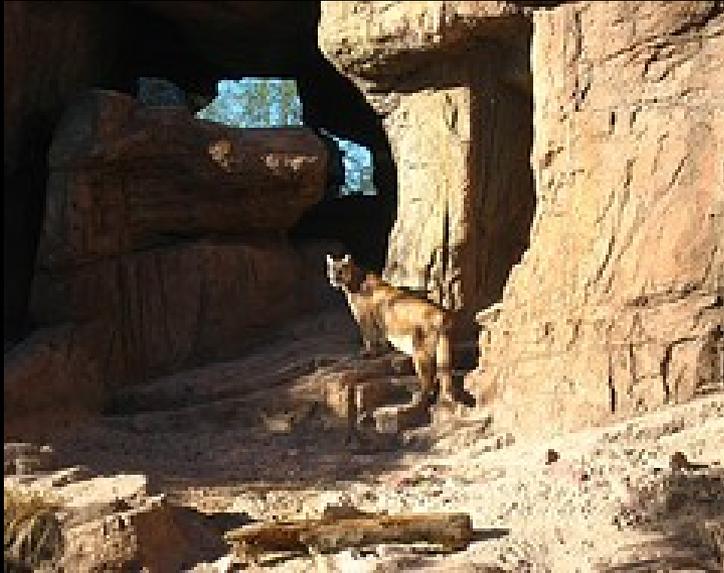


Photo by Adactio
<http://www.Flickr.com>

“Mountain lions, also known as cougars, pumas or catamounts, are large, brownish cats that generally weigh between 100 and 200 pounds. Three hundred years ago they roamed freely throughout all of North America, but early settlers saw them as a risk and killed them off. Today mountain lions are found mostly in the West and some regions of southern Florida. Since the 1800s, there have been a handful of documented cougar sightings in New England. The most recent proven sighting in Rhode Island occurred when a lion was killed in West Greenwich in 1847 or 1848.”

*The Providence Journal (R.I.),
December 29 ,1998
by Melanie Lefkowitz*

Ghostwalkers

“Tawny puffs of smoke able to break a bull's neck and yet so secretive.”

- Jim Kjelgaard, *Lion Hound*, 1955



“Since 1900, cougar populations across this north-south distribution have been eliminated due to hunting, habitat loss, and effective predator control campaigns. In the United States, only about half of their historic range remains. An estimated sixteen to twenty thousand "ghostwalkers" survive in the mountain and desert regions of the western United States and in parts of southern Texas.”

Photo by Digitalart2
<http://www.Flickr.com>

<http://www.kats-korner.com/bigcats/cougar.html> *Cougar*

Scat Found In Ossipee Mountains



Photo by Aliaki
<http://www.flickr.com>

“Mountain lions are found in 12 western states and the southern tip of Florida. There have been random official reports of these cats in New England states surrounding New Hampshire and DNA testing on scat found in 2002 in NH’s Ossipee Mountains was confirmed to be from a mountain lion. However, answers do not come easily; it is unclear whether the NH animal was originally a captive, released into the wild.”

**Margaret Gillespie, a Naturalist
at the *Squam Lakes Science
Center*, Holderness, NH**

Confirmed Cases



Photo by Aliaki
<http://www.flickr.com>

Quebec scratching Posts ?

“Mountain lion scat and sign was found in Pelham in the spring of 1997 by professional tracker John McCarter. DNA testing proved conclusively that the scat was from a mountain lion.”

<http://www.masslive.com/forums/outdoors/index.s>

“However I continue the explanation with a story of Felis Concolor, the Mountain Lion, sighting in northern Vermont some 12 years ago in January of 1993 I believe it was. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. had many reports of sightings of a Female Mountain Lion and two cubs in the Craftsbury area. There were even some reports of loss of live stock.....

At the meetings it was revealed that indeed there had been if not still was a Felis Concolor, the Mountain Lion in the area. There was only one problem This was a subspecies of Felis Concolor, the Mountain Lion that is only found in remote area of,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,, Peru. Now I don't think that a female, Felis Concolor, the Mountain Lion with cubs walked 9000 miles to poop in northern Vermont. Do you?”

<http://www.northernguideservices.com/WhatLivesInWoods.html>

Habitat Is Ready For Cats To Thrive



Bissell said it would be difficult but not impossible for a mountain lion to survive in the woods of Smithfield. “One of their prime sources of food is deer, and Lord knows we have enough of those out here,” he said. “More deer than in the habitats out West where they're actually propagating.”

Photo by Marty Harlequeen
<http://www.Flickr.comPhoto>

*The Providence Journal (R.I.),
December 29 , 1998
by Melanie Lefkowitz*

Conditions Ideal For A Return



Photo by Ten Safe Frogs
<http://www.Flickr.com>

Mountain Lion Foundation
<http://www.mountainlion.org/>

“Ecological conditions are nearly ideal for a return of the catamount to the Berkshires, including a dramatic increase in the deer population, the cat's main food source, Kasprzak said. Additionally, large tracts of farmland are being reclaimed as forest land in New England.”

Portsmouth Herald / Associated Press

An Efficient Predator



“Long and lean, cougars are efficient day and night active predators built to leap, climb trees, sprint, and ambush. Reaching lengths of eight to nine feet and weights between eighty and two hundred pounds, cougars have excellent vision, hearing, and olfaction and use these senses to detect and stalk their prey.”

Photo by “G” Jewells
<http://www.flickr.com>

<http://www.kats-korner.com/bigcats/cougar.html>

A Silent Attacker



Photo by Diametrik
<http://www.flickr.com>

“With their long tail used for balance, these athletic felines can make incredible leaps in pursuit of prey or to silently disappear into the underbrush.”

<http://www.kats-korner.com/bigcats/cougar.html>

Multiple Kills



Photo by Werwin15
<http://www.flickr.com>

“While cases have been reported of a female cougar accompanied by cubs killing as many as 100 lambs in an evening - eating none - and a female bobcat in northern Georgia killing as many as 125 turkeys in an evening - eating only one, or none - such rare events have been attributed to overzealous moms eager to teach their cubs the fine art of killing prey.”

Cape Elizabeth And Brunswick, ME



Photo by Ampersandwich
<http://www.Flickr.com>

“The lab hasn't finished its analysis on the fur yet, says Game Warden Service spokesman Mark Latti. But it's not out of the question that it's from a mountain lion. Nor is it that unusual to find them far south in the state. After all, there was a confirmed sighting in Cape Elizabeth about 15 years ago and another in Brunswick around 2001. But folks shouldn't think that means the mountain lion has returned to Maine.”

Mountain lion sighting in Kennebunkport
by Laura Dolce Seacoastonline.com

Where Do They Come From?



Photo by "G" Jewels
<http://www.Flickr.com>

Blodgett, the Vermont biologist, puts it this way: “My real scientific interest is—what’s the origin? Where did that critter come from? To me, that’s the whole ball of wax.”

North East Sasquatch Research
Association

Native Survivors Or Escaped Pets



Photo by kevin
<http://www.Flickr.com>

"They are most likely escaped or released animals," Latti says, adding that the animals were most likely kept as pets or part of small zoos. "We have yet to see evidence of a native population here or anywhere in New England."

Mountain lion sighting in
Kennebunkport by Laura Dolce
Seacoastonline.com

Attacks On Humans



Photo by Kretyen

<http://www.Flickr.com>

“Myths about the animal’s temperament range to extremes. Some recent magazine articles have portrayed the mountain lion as a vicious and unpredictable killer while others describe it as shy and sensitive, more like a feral house cat. The truth lies in between: the animal has a reclusive temperament, but is also, on occasion, capable of attacking people. Last winter near Banff, Alberta, a woman skiing alone through the forest in the middle of the day was killed by a hungry mountain lion.”



Photo by Carbon NYC

<http://www.Flickr.com>

North East Sasquatch Research Association

Native American Folklore



Photo by Scott 361
<http://www.Flickr.com>

“As the largest free-ranging cat in North America, the cougar figures prominently in Native American folklore. The Great Lakes tribes believed that their tails whipped up the waves and storms on the lakes. Cherokee Indians called them klandagi, "lord of the forest," and the Chickasaws called them ko-icto, "cat of god." The Cochiti Indians of New Mexico carved life-sized stone statues of cougars and built shrines in their honor, and the ancient city of Cuzco in Peru is said to have been laid out in the shape of a cougar.”

<http://www.katskorner.com/bigcats/cougar.htm>

Revered By Native Americans



Photo by Philo

<http://www.Flickr.com>

“So revered was the big cat by many Native Americans in southern California that Christian missionaries found such beliefs an obstacle in trying to establish new missions. The native people refused to kill the amber cats or protect their livestock from attack.”

<http://www.kats-korner.com/bigcats/cougar.html>

John Harrigan On Recent Sightings



Photo by Tambak the Jaguar

<http://www.Flickr.com>

“Many excellent sightings that to me were beyond dispute...

- Jaffrey
- Pittsburg
- Stark
- Littleton
- Dixville
- Colebrook
- Ossipees
- Sandwich
- Bristol
- Monadnock region
- Manchester”

Carroll County Independent, 09/4/2008

Response To John Harrigan



Photo by Mark G6
<http://www.Flickr.com>

Readers of the September 4th column respond:

- September 1, 2007 Evans Notch-reported but no reply
- Summer 2008 Redstone-near Walmart
- Kyla Miller September 2008 road kill in Franconia-disappeared
- Evans Notch - Candy and Dan
- Wolfeboro, NH – bad photography

Mountain Lion Vs. Bobcat



Photo by Paul J. Everett
<http://www.Flickr.com>



Photo by Paul J. Everett
<http://www.Flickr.com>



Photo by Digital Art 2
<http://www.Flickr.com>



Photo by Ahisgett
<http://www.Flickr.com>

Mountain lions are known by more than 100 names, including panther, catamount, cougar, painter, mountain screamer, tawny devil, and puma. Its scientific name is *Felis concolor*, which means "cat of one color."

Symbol Of The Wild



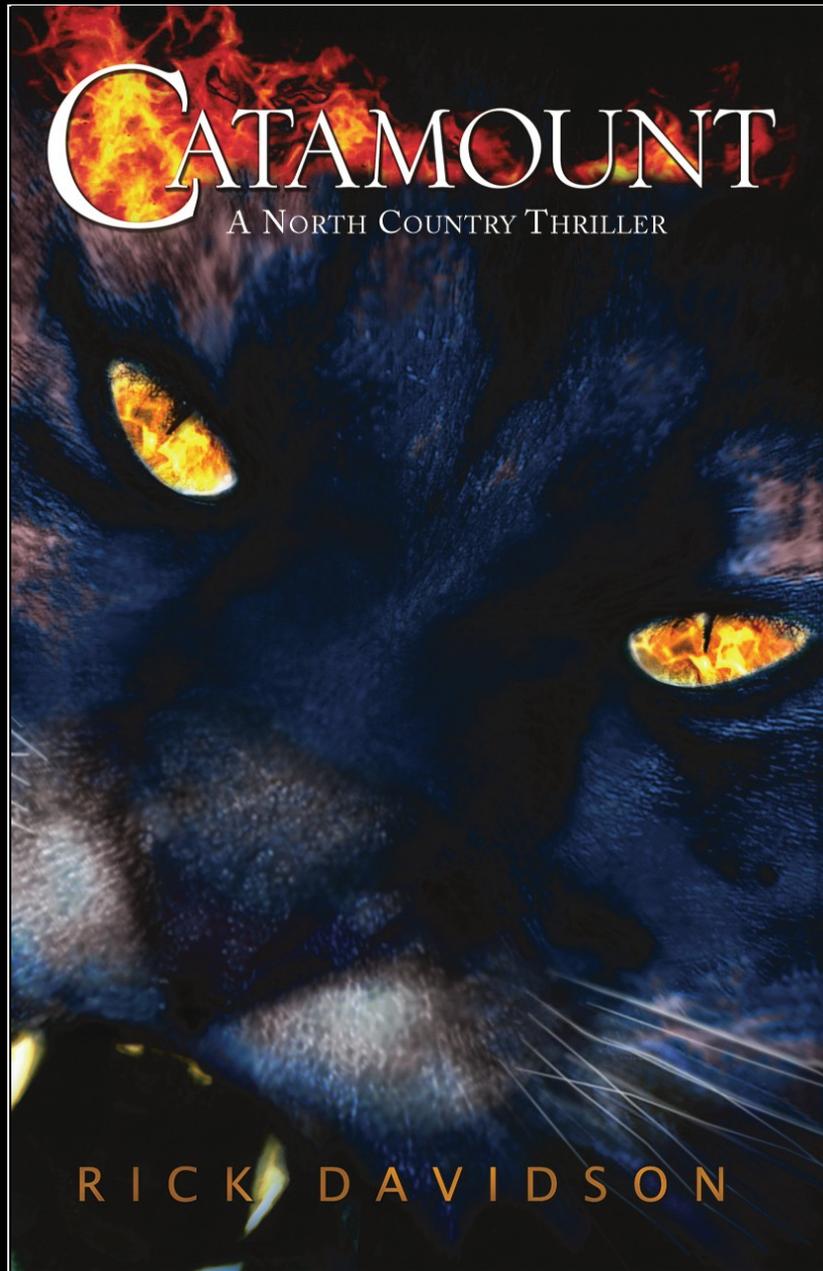
Photo by Just Chaos

<http://www.Flickr.com>

“The mountain lion works a strong magic in the imagination of many Americans. It is the ultimate loner, a renegade presence in the wildest canyons and wildest mountains, the sign of everything that is remote from us, everything we have not spoiled.”

- Donald Schueler

Incident at Eagle Ranch, 1991



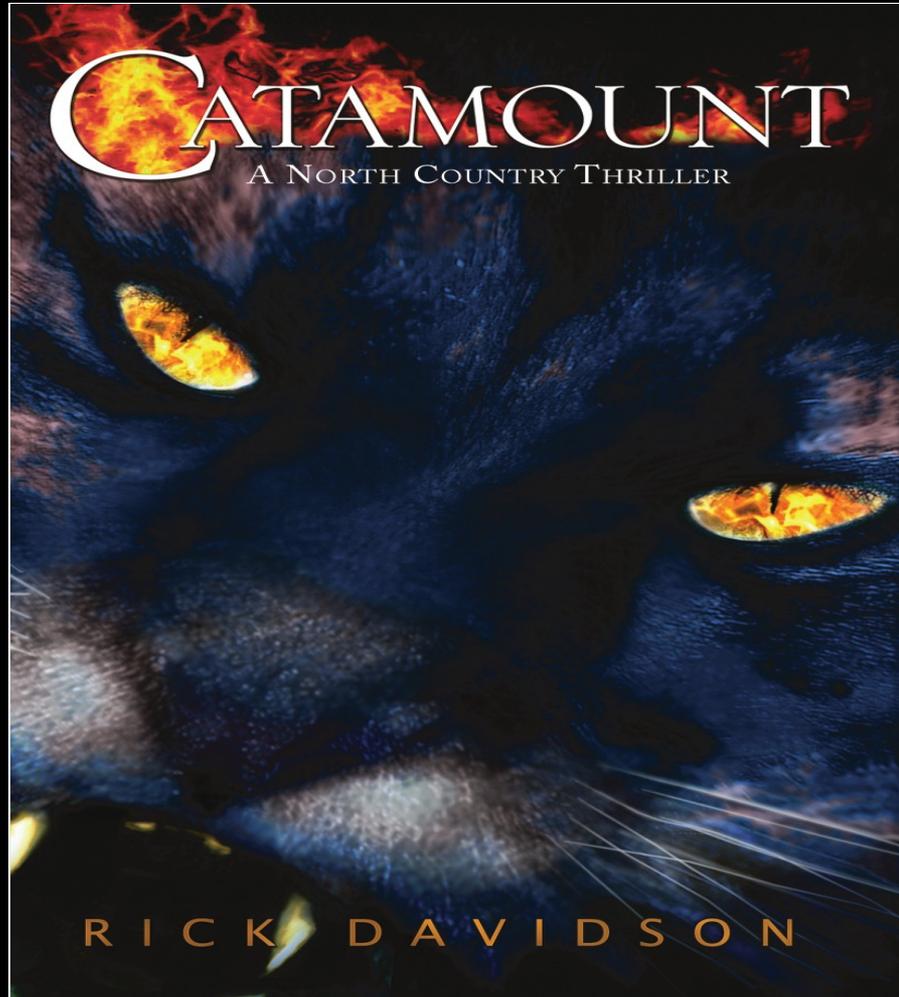
Can We Co-exist?



Photo by Eliya
<http://www.Flickr.com>

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