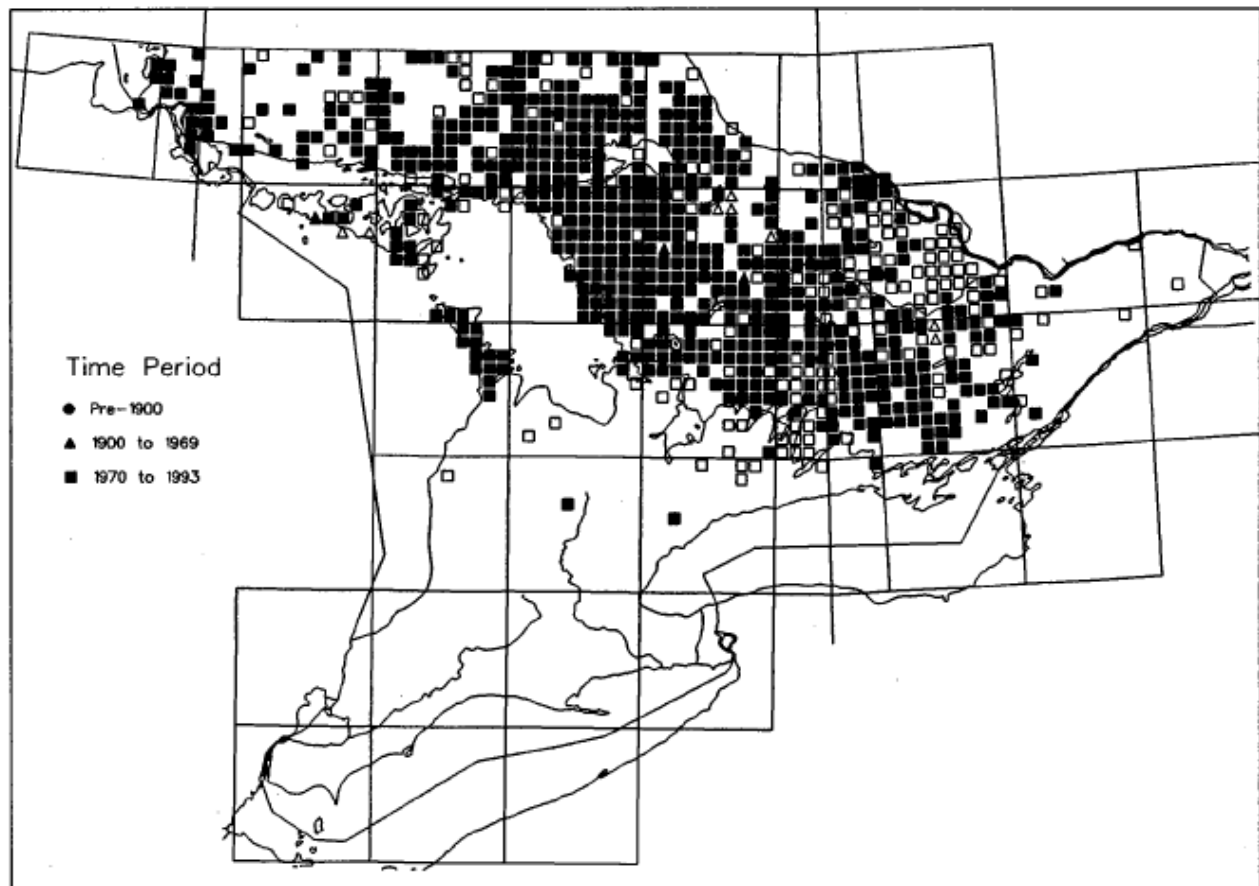
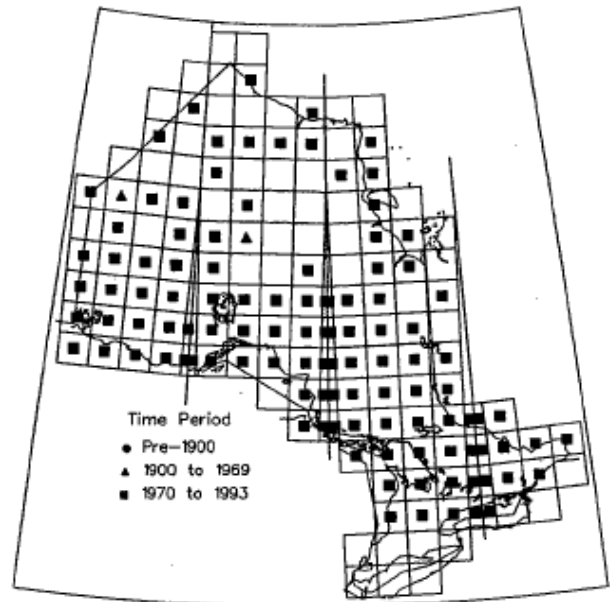


# Black Bear

*Ursus americanus*

The Black Bear is well documented in Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources big game harvest records, providing a detailed distribution map. Historically, the Black Bear has been found throughout the province, right down into southwestern Ontario (Peterson 1966). Currently, however, its range is restricted to the Canadian Shield, northern Ontario, and an isolated population on the Bruce Peninsula. Occasional records have been found further south, such as the one from Luther Marsh in 1978. Likely, records south of normal Black Bear range are examples of unusual dispersal movements.

Black Bears prefer to live in large, undeveloped tracts of forest with clearings and early succession vegetation. As a result, bears are generally not found south of the Canadian Shield where most of the land has been cleared for agriculture and settlement.

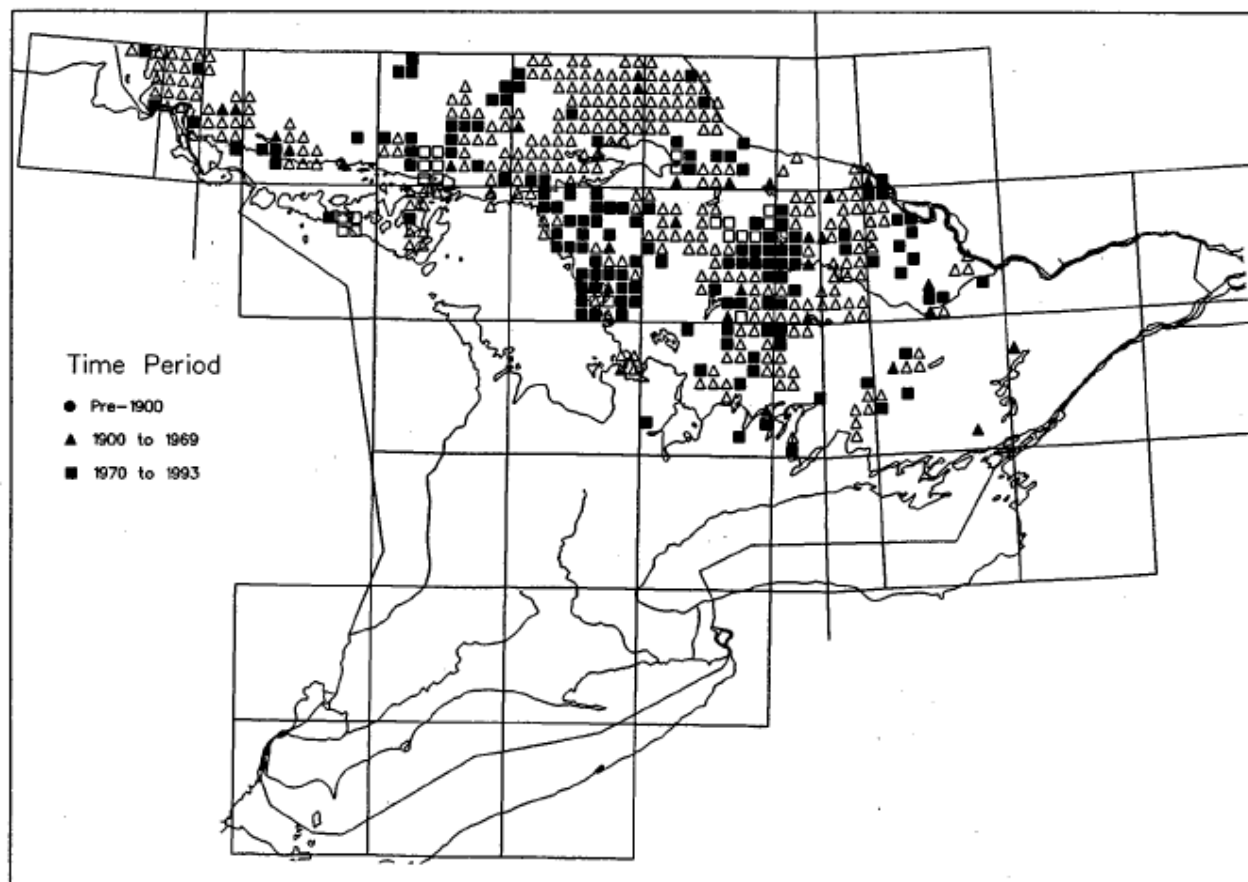
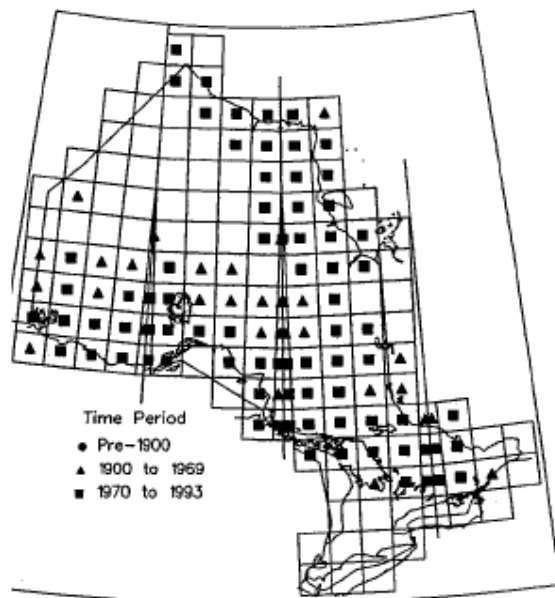


# Gray Wolf

*Canis lupus*

The Gray Wolf is the largest member of the dog family in Ontario and has long been a symbol of the Canadian north. It ranges throughout Canada except on the prairies and in heavily populated areas of the south. In Ontario, the range of the wolf extends from Lake Simcoe to the James and Hudson Bay shorelines, whereas the Coyote dominates areas south of this range and around some northern settlements. The Gray Wolf is the dominant species in Algonquin Provincial Park.

Distribution of Coyotes and Gray Wolves is governed by specific habitat preferences. The Gray Wolf prefers more heavily forested areas whereas the Coyote prefers open woodlands and agricultural areas. The Gray Wolf does not coexist with people as well as the more adaptable Coyote. As a result, the Gray Wolf dominates in northern regions where people are scarce, while the Coyote dominates everywhere else.



# River Otter

*Lontra canadensis*

The River Otter can be found throughout many areas of the US and Canada, although agricultural development has depleted its range in southcentral Ontario. Otters are most common north of Lake Simcoe, including on the Bruce Peninsula, where there are numerous small lakes and streams.

In Ontario, River Otters are classified as furbearers. Ample fur harvest records provide abundant data with which to map River Otter range. However, in some fringe areas of the River Otter's range (such as the Bruce Peninsula), there is a zero harvest quota for otters, and the Mammal Atlas has had to rely heavily on volunteers to provide information.

