

Recent Coyote Record from Florida

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COYOTES (*Canis latrans*) have previously been reported in Florida. Young and Jackson (1951) mention releases as early as 1925 when four coyotes were liberated in Palm Beach County and 10 were set free near Arcadia in DeSoto County. Also in 1930-31, 16 more were released in DeSoto County. Young and Jackson report coyotes killed in Collier County and on Key Largo, Monroe County, and seven miles east of Sparr, Marion County. Lacking are recent records of adult breeding coyotes in Florida.

On May 28, 1969 two coyote pups were dug out of a den seven miles northeast of Lake Wales in Polk County Florida. Two adults, one male and one female, were trapped approximately 400 yards from the den on June 15. These animals were determined to be coyotes using criteria developed by Howard (1949). These coyotes are probably descendants of those brought into the area in the early 1950's by hound enthusiasts as quarry for the dogs (personal communication).

Complete measurements were taken on the two adult coyotes, and the skins and skulls are now in the Florida State Museum, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. Measurements on the male (UF 8631) and female (UF 8630) respectively are as follows (mm): total length, 1199, 1188; tail length, 345.0, 344.0; hind foot, 203.0, 190.0; nose pad diameter, 27.7, 24.5; weight, 17.4 kg, 12.0 kg. Skull measurements (mm) are: condylobasal length, 195.0, 174.5; palatal length, 98.2, 90.6; palatal width, 21.0, 20.8; squamosal constriction, 64.2, 60.7; zygomatic breadth, 108.2, 96.0; interorbital breadth, 39.7, 33.0; maxillary tooth-row, 93.0, 82.7; upper molar tooth-row, 74.9, 68.9; upper carnassial length, 20.9, 17.2; first upper molar length, 13.1, 12.8; first upper molar breadth, 18.6, 17.0; lower carnassial length, 22.7, 21.5; canine diameter at base 10.4, 9.0.

LITERATURE CITED

- HOWARD, W. E. 1949. A means to distinguish skulls of coyotes and domestic dogs. Jour. Mamm., vol. 30, pp. 169-171.

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Quart. Jour. Florida Acad. Sci. 33(4) 1970(1971)



Cunningham, V D and Dunford, R D. 1970. "RECENT COYOTE RECORD FROM FLORIDA." *Quarterly journal of the Florida Academy of Sciences* 33, 279–280.

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