



As of 2016, the ABMI has found the Red Fox at 169 sites throughout the province.



# Red Fox

## *Vulpes vulpes*

*Despite the saying “sly as a fox,” the Red Fox is more shy than sly. These small foxes have beautiful, long coats in varying shades of red and grey, and fluffy tails. Their smarts, sensitive ears, sharp eyes, and keen nose help the Red Fox to hunt and avoid danger.*

### DID YOU KNOW?

*The Red Fox is able to hear very low-frequency sounds, uncommon amongst most mammals. This helps them hunt their prey, even if they're underground!*



### Description

Being a nocturnal species that hunts at night, it is quite uncommon to see a Red Fox. They usually have a reddish-orange coat with a white chest and belly. The back of its ears and the front of the forelegs are black. They are a small and slender animal with a long bushy, white-tipped tail.

### Habitat

The Red Fox is a very adaptable creature and uses a range of habitats. They prefer open fields, marshes, woodlots, and vacant buildings. In the spring and summer, Red Foxes live in dens for shelter and to raise their pups in. Foxes usually use abandoned burrows of other mammals but may sometimes use a hollow log, a patch of dense bush, or modify the space underneath a human structure to create their

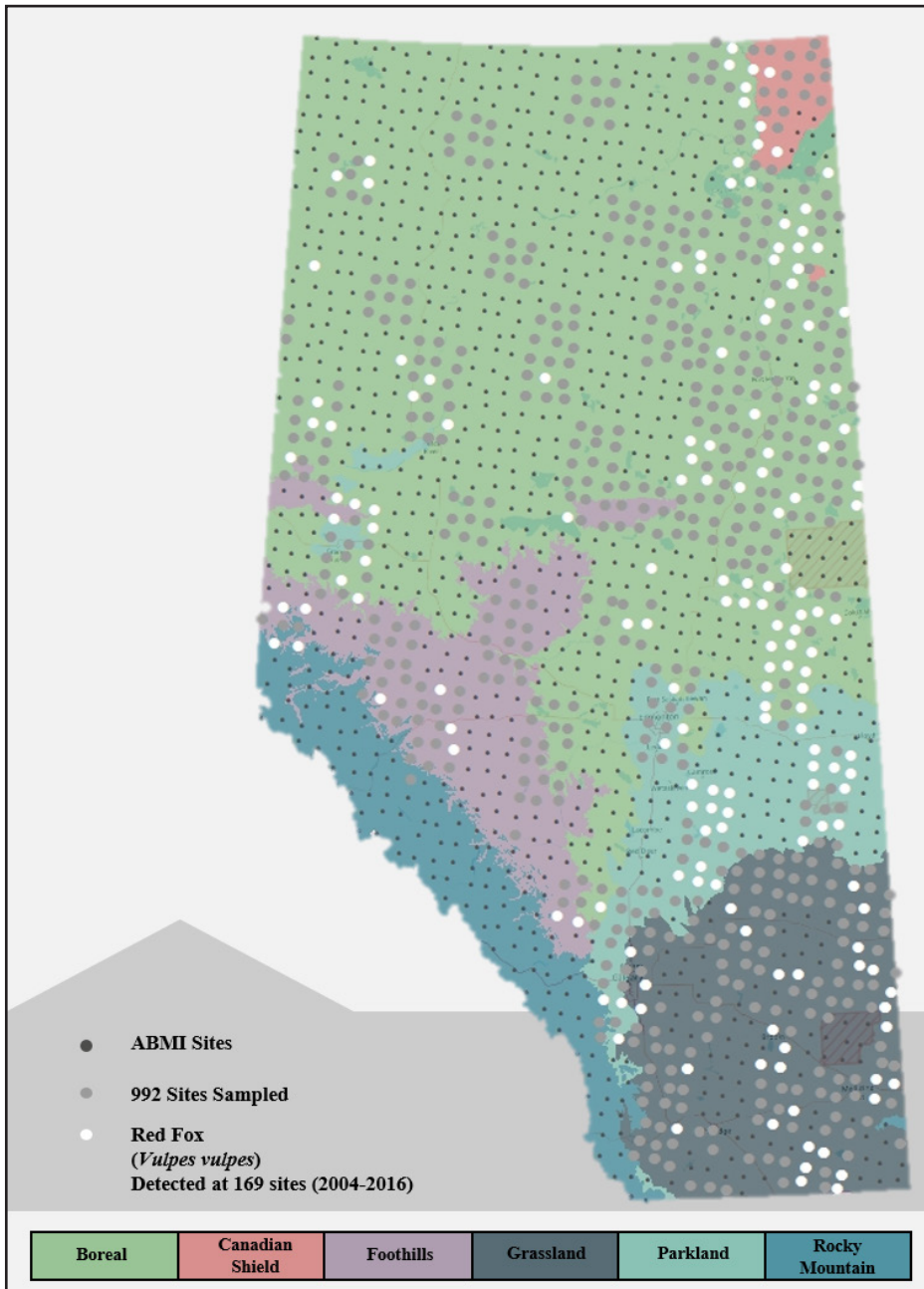
den. If the den is undisturbed it may be used by foxes for multiple years. Dens often have more than one entrance, and a pair of foxes may have two or more dens near to each other in case they need to move their litter.

### Behaviour

This graceful mammal is the most widespread carnivore in the world. It raises its young in dens that can be the abandoned burrows of other animals, hollow logs, or even the space underneath buildings. The Red Fox is a solitary animal, preferring to live and hunt alone, unless it is breeding season. It is an exceptional hunter, and can be seen diving head first into a snow drift to catch its prey.

# Red Fox

Detected at  
**169 of 992**  
sites  
sampled



## Diet

The Red Fox is both a predatory and scavenger species. Although they mainly feast on small mammals, they can also eat birds, eggs, and fruit. Their food will often change with the season as different food sources become more abundant. They can be somewhat of a pest species if they take up residence on a farm and begin preying on smaller livestock.

## Human Effects

Using ABMI data, we are able to see what impacts humans have on species and their habitats. Red Foxes seem to prefer human altered areas in Alberta, and this is leading to increases in fox numbers, especially in northern regions.

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