

Recapture Rates in Small Mammal Trapping Studies

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Abstract

Using small mammal trapping data collected by the Summer Ventures Field Biology and Ecology Class over a 6-year period in Julian Price Park, Watauga County, NC, conclusions were drawn about the overall health of the park and of the populations and distributions of the small mammals living within it. It was determined that there was a significantly higher rate of recapture for deer mice compared to all of the other types of species caught. There were meaningful differences in male to female ratios for golden mice and harvest mice, with males having a higher rate of recapture. However, there was no significant difference between genders for the deer mouse, the meadow vole, or the white-footed mouse. There was no difference between the recapture rates between males and females overall, but there was actually a slight difference between the total capture rates between the males and females.