

Tracking, ancient skill as a modern scientific tool

Tracking is an ancient skill and a basic tool of hunter-gatherer's societies. The rise of citizen science and the development of non-invasive methods made tracking relevant again for zoological and ecological research. These processes have led to the development of novel approaches of tracking and the updating of field-guides and data sets. In Addition, standardization in sampling methods has evolved.

In this presentation, I will describe the advantages and disadvantages of tracking compared to trail cameras, trapping and radio telemetry. I will review the building blocks of tracking, locating tracks in the field, and gaits of wildlife with four limbs. Furthermore, I will present a few examples of modern studies that use tracking for individual recognition, land use preferences, and activity patterns.

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