

Habitat selection by Eurasian pine martens *Martes martes* in managed forests of southern boreal Scandinavia

Authors: Brainerd, Scott M., and Rolstad, Jørund

Source: Wildlife Biology, 8(4) : 289-297

Published By: Nordic Board for Wildlife Research

URL: <https://doi.org/10.2981/wlb.2002.026>

The BioOne Digital Library (<https://bioone.org/>) provides worldwide distribution for more than 580 journals and eBooks from BioOne's community of over 150 nonprofit societies, research institutions, and university presses in the biological, ecological, and environmental sciences. The BioOne Digital Library encompasses the flagship aggregation BioOne Complete (<https://bioone.org/subscribe>), the BioOne Complete Archive (<https://bioone.org/archive>), and the BioOne eBooks program offerings ESA eBook Collection (<https://bioone.org/esa-ebooks>) and CSIRO Publishing BioSelect Collection (<https://bioone.org/csiro-ebooks>).

Your use of this PDF, the BioOne Digital Library, and all posted and associated content indicates your acceptance of BioOne's Terms of Use, available at www.bioone.org/terms-of-use.

Usage of BioOne Digital Library content is strictly limited to personal, educational, and non-commercial use. Commercial inquiries or rights and permissions requests should be directed to the individual publisher as copyright holder.

BioOne is an innovative nonprofit that sees sustainable scholarly publishing as an inherently collaborative enterprise connecting authors, nonprofit publishers, academic institutions, research libraries, and research funders in the common goal of maximizing access to critical research.

Habitat selection by Eurasian pine martens *Martes martes* in managed forests of southern boreal Scandinavia

Scott M. Brainerd & Jørund Rolstad

Brainerd, S.M. & Rolstad, J. 2002: Habitat selection by Eurasian pine martens *Martes martes* in managed forests of southern boreal Scandinavia. - Wildl. Biol. 8: 289-297.

Using radio telemetry, we examined within home range habitat selection by the Eurasian pine marten *Martes martes* (11 males and eight females; 1,495 locations) in managed forest in two study areas, the Varaldskogen Wildlife Research Area, Norway, and the Grimsö Wildlife Research Area, Sweden, near the southern limit of the boreal forest zone. Pine martens preferred spruce-dominated forest with large (≥ 20 m tall) trees and avoided clearcuts and open habitats. Males and females used similar habitats and habitat use was little influenced by year, season and activity mode (active vs inactive). When habitat types were ranked in order of use, stands dominated by large spruce trees were preferentially selected over the lowest-ranked habitats, i.e. pine-dominated stands with trees < 20 m tall, clearcuts, open areas and deciduous stands, but were used similar to other spruce-dominated categories and pine-dominated stands ≥ 20 m tall. Although pine martens exhibited selection and avoidance of certain habitat types, they were able to exploit a wide range of successional stages in forests with a long history of exploitation.

Key words: Eurasian pine marten, habitat selection, *Martes martes*, Scandinavia

Scott M. Brainerd*, Grimsö Wildlife Research Station, S-730 91 Riddarhyttan, Sweden, and Department of Biology and Nature Conservation, Box 5014, Agricultural University of Norway, N-1432 Ås-NLH, Norway - e-mail: scott.brainerd@nina.no

Jørund Rolstad, Norwegian Forest Research Institute, Høgskoleveien 12, N-1432 Ås-NLH, Norway - e-mail: jorund.rolstad@skogforsk.no

*Present address: Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA), Dronningens gt. 13, Box 736 Sentrum, N-0105 Oslo, Norway

Corresponding author: Jørund Rolstad

Received 25 September 2000, accepted 6 March 2002

Associate Editor: Heikki Henttonen

In Scandinavia, the Eurasian pine marten *Martes martes* is often considered a habitat specialist, dependent on tracts of natural, spruce-dominated old forest and avoiding open areas such as clearcuts, bogs and fields (e.g. Bjärvall, Nilsson & Norling 1977, Wabakken 1985, Brainerd 1990, Storch, Lindström & de Jonge 1990). Concordantly, pine marten densities have been found

to be higher in contiguous, mature forests relative to areas fragmented by modern clearcutting forestry practice (Bjärvall et al. 1977, Bjärvall & Lindström 1991, Gundersen 1995). On the other hand, Brainerd, Helldin, Lindström & Rolstad (1994) found that pine martens displayed a generalised use of forest habitat types relative to age, concluding that forest structure, rather than age,

probably influences pine marten selection of habitat. In North America older seral stages of coniferous forests are regarded as important, if not critical, for the closely related American marten *Martes americana* (e.g. Steven-ton & Major 1982, Buskirk & Powell 1994, Thompson 1991, 1994). However, similar to that reported for the Eurasian pine marten (Brainerd et al. 1994), Chapin, Har- rison & Phillips (1997) found that American martens exhibited no apparent selection of a variety of habitats during winter in the northeastern United States, although their study area was little influenced by forestry. They concluded that vertical and horizontal structure may be more important habitat components than age or species composition of the forest overstorey.

Scandinavian boreal forests have a long history of exploitation (Tenow 1974), with industrial forestry dur- ing the past 300 years having virtually eliminated old- growth forests in the southern boreal zone (Esseen, Ehnström, Ericson & Sjöberg 1992). The disturbance regime of primeval boreal forest was fire-driven, cre- ating a landscape mosaic of different successional stages. Fire suppression during the past 100 years has effectively eliminated early post-fire seres, but com- mercial clearcutting has replaced fire as the principal dis- turbance agent creating the landscape mosaic (Zackrisson 1977, Niklasson & Granström 2000). Forestry practices in this region are among the most mechanised and effi- cient in the world, with almost all forest land now used for timber and pulp production (Gamlin 1988, Esseen et al. 1992). Although both primeval and intensively managed forests are composed of mosaics of different seral classes, the vertical structure of stands is more com- plex in uneven-aged primeval stands than in their man- aged, even-aged counterparts (Swenson & Angelstam 1993, Angelstam 1998).

In a previous paper we rejected the hypothesis of old- growth dependency based on our findings that martens did not select for the oldest forest stands (Brainerd et al. 1994). In this paper we investigate the influence of forest structure on habitat selection, and hypothesise that Eurasian pine martens prefer mature, spruce-dominat- ed forest and conversely avoid clearcuts, bogs and other areas devoid of overhead cover year-round. The primary rationale for this hypothesis is that: 1) mature, spruce-dominated habitats harbour a greater variety of prey species due to their inherently higher site produc- tivity and cover coefficient compared to pine-domi- nated stands (Wabakken 1985, Eide 1995, Gundersen 1995), and 2) open areas afford little escape cover for pine martens, which can be preyed upon in our study areas by red fox *Vulpes vulpes* (Lindström, Brainerd, Hell- din & Overskaug 1995), lynx *Lynx lynx* (Linnell, Odden,

Pedersen & Andersen 1998), golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* (Nyholm 1970, Pulliainen 1981b, Korpimäki & Norrdahl 1989), and eagle owl *Bubo bubo* (Nyholm 1970, Pulliainen 1981b).

The objective of our study was to examine habitat selection relative to forest structure, season, year, activ- ity mode (active vs inactive/resting) and sex in two managed Scandinavian boreal forests. We restrict our analysis to within home range selection, pertaining to the usage of various habitat types compared to availabili- ty within the home ranges of the radio-marked martens (third-order selection, *sensu* Johnson 1980).

A vast body of literature concerns the lack of consistent terminology in habitat selection studies (see Garshelis 2000 and Jones 2001 for recent reviews). Here we fol- low Manly, McDonald & Thomas (1993: 3) when ex- amining habitat selection, and use the terms 'preference' and 'avoidance' to indicate that certain habitats are utilised significantly more or less than their respective proportions of availability within marten home ranges (see also White & Garrott 1990). From this analysis, we infer that martens are indeed selecting for or against cer- tain habitats if they exhibit marked statistical preference or avoidance of these.

Study areas

We conducted our research in two managed forests near the southern limit of the boreal zone (Ahti, Hämet-Ahti & Jalas 1968) of Sweden and Norway. The Grimsö Wild- life Research Area (59°40'N, 15°25'E) is situated in south-central Sweden, and our efforts were restricted to the southern portion (75 km²) of the 140-km² study area. The Varaldskogen Wildlife Research Area (60°10'N, 12°30'E) is located on the Norwegian-Swedish border, 175 km west of Grimsö, and covers approximately 100 km². Grimsö is relatively flat (75–125 m a.s.l.), whereas Varaldskogen is more hilly, varying between 200 and 400 m a.s.l. The areas have similar forest composition, dominated by commercial stands of Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris* and Norway spruce *Picea abies* (Table 1). Stands dominated by deciduous trees are rare, but white birch *Betula pubescens*, grey alder *Alnus incana*, and aspen *Populus tremula* are sometimes present as an admixture in coniferous stands. A few deciduous stands occur at abandoned pastures. Lakes and rivers comprise 5% of both study areas. Rocky glacial till, with fields of large boulders in many places, dominates the substrate. For a detailed description of the study areas see Brainerd et al. (1994).

In both study areas timber resources have been inten-

Table 1. Composition (in %) of habitat types according to tree heights within the study areas at Varaldskogen, Norway, and Grimsö, Sweden. The habitat types are: CC = clearcut, DECID = deciduous forest, OPEN = open habitat except water bodies, P = pine forest, S = spruce forest. For pine and spruce forests the tree heights are given.

Habitat type	Varaldskogen	Grimsö
CC 0-1 m	5.2	3.8
DECID	0.1	0.8
OPEN	8.1	26.6
P 1-10 m	19.8	15.1
P 10-20 m	26.0	14.0
P ≥ 20 m	3.8	8.8
S 1-10 m	15.9	4.9
S 10-20 m	13.3	16.4
S ≥ 20 m	7.9	9.6

sively utilised since the mid-1600s, culminating in the late 1800s, when most of the available large-timbered tracts had been exploited. Beginning about 1950, clear-cutting and replanting of 5-50 ha units has become the dominant forestry method. Clearcuts and plantations often adjoin, creating contiguous regenerating stands of several hundred ha, comprising >80% of the total productive forest area. This history of use has created a mosaic landscape of even-aged, one-layered stands up to about 80 years of age and multi-layered old forest stands that have naturally rejuvenated after intensive logging at Varaldskogen (Rolstad & Wegge 1989) or burns at Grimsö (Angelstam 1992).

Methods

Data collection and sampling

We captured martens in wooden box-traps (40 × 40 × 60 cm) baited primarily with honey or visceral organs of cervids. The martens were immobilised with a combination of ketamine hydrochloride and xylazine hydrochloride, the dosages for ketamine and xylazine being 10 and 2 mg/kg body weight (drug concentrations 100 mg/ml), respectively. We affixed a small plastic rototag and a metal ear-clip in each ear, and attached 2-stage neckband transmitters (Televilt AB, Bandygatan 2, S-711 34 Lindesberg, Sweden) equipped with either metal loop or whip antennas. Size of radio-packages reflected dimorphism between sexes, with male radios (40 g) weighing more than those of females (25 g), about 2.5% of body weight in both cases. Transmitter life averaged nine and six months for males and females, respectively. Although we estimated ages of some of our animals at Grimsö (Helldin 1997), this was not possible with all individuals. Therefore we do not differentiate between age categories in this paper.

We used data collected on eight males and five females

captured during four winters at Grimsö (1986/87 and 1988/89-1990/91) and three males and three females captured during two consecutive winters at Varaldskogen (1989/90-1990/91). Two females at Grimsö and two males at Varaldskogen were monitored for more than one year, and habitat analyses were based on their total home ranges used during this period (see below). Sub-samples of these data have been used in earlier publications (Storch, Lindström & de Jonge 1990, Brainerd et al. 1994, Brainerd, Helldin, Lindström, Rolstad, Rolstad & Storch 1995).

Radio-locations included triangulations, cross bearings, close-tracking (≤100 m from the animal), and visual observations. In this analysis we included only triangulations with the longest side of error polygons being ≤250 m, and cross-bearings with the longest bearing distance being ≤200 m. The angle between the respective bearings was ≥45° for triangulations and 45-135° for cross-bearings. Error polygons (≤3 ha) were considered acceptable in our study areas, where habitat units were usually >10 ha (see Cederlund & Lemnell 1979, Cederlund, Dreyfert & Lemnell 1979).

Home range centres for independence analyses were computed using the RANGES IV software (Kenward 1990). Altogether, 1,495 radio-locations from Grimsö (N = 1,045) and Varaldskogen (N = 450) were used in this paper. Martens were often continuously radio-tracked for 3-12 hour periods. Hence, we used only independent locations (Swihart & Slade 1985) to minimise autocorrelation and to standardise data across individuals and between study areas. We applied this method to locations <12 hours apart. However, for some pine martens, i.e. denning females, the independence criterion could not be achieved. In such instances, we considered locations ≤12 hours apart as independent samples. This analysis was split into two seasons: winter (16 October-15 April), and summer (16 April-15 October). Locations were equally distributed between winter (N = 724) and summer (N = 772), and active locations comprised 41 and 44% of winter and summer locations, respectively.

We determined habitat use by plotting locations on detailed forest habitat maps provided by the Swedish and Norwegian Forest Services. Habitat availability was measured within the total home range (95% minimum area convex polygon (MCP; Mohr 1947), N ≥ 30 locations (Kenward 1992)) for each individual. Maps with associated forestry plans provided the background material to define habitat types (see Table 1). Mean 24-hour temperatures were recorded daily at weather stations within 50 km of each study area throughout the year, ranging from -18°C to 27°C for the study period.

Snow coverage varied greatly between years, reaching maximum depths of 40 cm during winter 1986/87 at Grimsö and 30 cm during winter 1990/91 at Varaldskogen. The winters of 1988/89, 1989/90 and 1990/91 at Grimsö and 1989/90 at Varaldskogen were virtually snow-free, since periods of snowfall were immediately followed by warm, wet periods that melted the snow.

Analysis of habitat selection

We discerned nine habitat types and categorised them as follows: clearcut with a dominant tree height of 0–1 m (CC 0–1 m), deciduous stands (DECID), open areas including bogs, meadows, or agricultural fields (OPEN), stands dominated by pine (P) and spruce (S). The two latter types were divided into three categories based on the dominant tree height: 1–10 m, 10–20 m, and ≥ 20 m. Lakes, rivers and other bodies of water were excluded from the analysis.

Initially we pooled all radio locations across individuals and employed the log-likelihood χ^2 -test statistic (Sokal & Rohlf 1981) to determine if active selection of habitats was occurring at the study area level (Neu, Byers, Peek & Boy 1974, White & Garrott 1990: 186–191, McClean, Rumble, King, & Baker 1998). We then compared the proportion of habitat use relative to its availability within individual home ranges (the Design III procedure of Thomas & Taylor 1990, McDonald, Reed & Erickson 1991, and Manly et al. 1993). The proportions that describe habitat composition sum to 1 over all habitat types (the unit-sum constraint; Aitchison 1986). To avoid the problem of non-independent proportions, we transformed the compositional data sets using their log-ratios prior to statistical analysis (Aebischer, Robertson & Kenward 1993).

We estimated individual selection coefficients for the sample population (X_i) for each habitat type ($i = 1$ –9) as the ratios of means of proportion used and proportion available habitat for all animals, thereby incorporating individual variation into the standard errors. The ratio of means generally has less bias and variance than the mean of ratios (Manly et al. 1993: 55). Selection coefficients and their associated standard errors were ln-transformed to overcome the unit-sum constraint and to obtain more robust confidence intervals (hereafter referred to as log-ratio selection coefficients; $\ln X_i$). Logarithmic transformation required that each animal used all habitat types, which was not the case for all martens. In these cases we substituted zero values with $\ln(0.01) = -4.61$, being smaller than the lowest recorded non-zero value of -2.97 (Aebischer et al. 1993). To keep the Type I error low, Bonferroni joint confidence intervals were constructed to test the hypothesis that each

habitat was used in proportion to its availability within home ranges. We rejected the null hypothesis when values did not intersect zero. Since pine martens were territorial, we took a conservative approach and analysed habitat selection within total 95% MCP ranges.

Possible differences between seasons, years, sexes and activity modes were inferred by comparing the log-ratio selection coefficients for each habitat type between and among the different categories. The data were tested for normality using Kolmogorov-Smirnov test on the multivariate residuals for each habitat type. The assumption of normality was violated for some habitats, and we therefore employed two-tailed ($\alpha = 0.05$) nonparametric procedures (Mann-Whitney U- and Kruskal-Wallis H-tests) to test the null hypothesis that habitat types were used as available within or between different data categories. Correlation was checked with Spearman's rank (r_s) test. We subjectively included only pine martens with ≥ 10 locations for each comparison.

To rank the habitat types in order of use, we compared selection ratios for the total sample population between habitat types in a pairwise fashion for all possible pairs of habitat types. There were $k' = 36$ possible comparisons between pairs of these ratios, and we set α at $0.10/36 = 0.003$, which gave individual confidence limits of 99.7% (Aebischer et al. 1993, Manly et al. 1993: 60).

Results

Habitat selection did not differ between study areas except for OPEN habitat, which was used less at Varaldskogen ($\ln X_i = -2.10 \pm 0.05$ SE) than at Grimsö ($\ln X_i = -0.96 \pm 0.12$ SE; $U = 36.0$, $N_G = 13$, $N_V = 3$, $Z = 2.22$, $P = 0.026$). However, OPEN habitat was strongly avoided in both study areas ($P < 0.001$, see below). Habitat selection did not differ between sexes, neither when tested on a combined data set, nor when tested within years, seasons or activity modes ($P > 0.05$ for all comparisons). To increase the sample size, we therefore combined data from both sexes and study areas for further analysis.

Log-likelihood χ^2 -tests revealed significant departure from a random selection of habitats both in winter (active: $\chi^2_8 = 66.45$, $P < 0.001$; inactive: $\chi^2_8 = 181.02$, $P < 0.001$) and summer (active: $\chi^2_8 = 84.40$, $P < 0.001$; inactive: $\chi^2_8 = 164.30$, $P < 0.001$). For active locations during both seasons, low expected values for DECID ($N = 3$) violated the condition that expected frequencies should be ≥ 5 for each category. Although such results should be treated with reservation, we decided to include

DECID in the habitat selection analyses since the statistics indicated a strong departure from random use.

The log-ratio compositional analysis of habitat selection within home ranges showed that pine martens avoided CC 0-1 m when inactive, and OPEN in both activity modes, and that they preferred S 10-20 m when inactive and $S \geq 20$ m in both activity modes (Fig. 1). Winter selection ratios did not differ between activity modes. During summer, pine martens avoided CC 0-1 m while inactive. They avoided OPEN and preferred $S \geq 20$ m in both activity modes (see Fig. 1). Although CC 0-1 m and OPEN were avoided, these habitats were used more often when pine martens were active than inactive (CC 0-1 m; $U = 90.0$, $N_a = 10$, $N_i = 12$, $Z = 1.98$, $P = 0.047$; OPEN; $U = 91.5$, $N_a = 11$, $N_i = 11$, $Z = 2.04$, $P = 0.042$). Active pine martens used OPEN more often during summer than during winter ($U = 98.5$, $N_a = 11$, $N_i = 12$, $Z = 2.00$, $P = 0.046$).

Pine martens used habitats similarly in all years ($P > 0.05$), except for active locations during winter when they varied in use of $P \geq 20$ m from year to year ($H = 9.19$, $N = 3, 4, 7, 5$, $df = 3$, $P = 0.03$). We checked whether this variation was related to snow depth, which appeared not to be the case ($r_s = -0.05$, $N = 19$, $P > 0.20$).

The pairwise comparison of selection ratios revealed that pine martens selected $S \geq 20$ m more often than most lower ranking habitats, but similarly to S 1-10 m, S 10-20 m, and $P \geq 20$ m (Table 2). S 10-20 m and $P \geq 20$ m were selected more often than CC 0-1 m, DECID and OPEN habitats, but similarly to lower-ranking conifer-dominated seres. S 1-10 m and P 10-20 m were selected more often than CC 0-1 m, and P 10-20 m was selected more often than OPEN habitat.

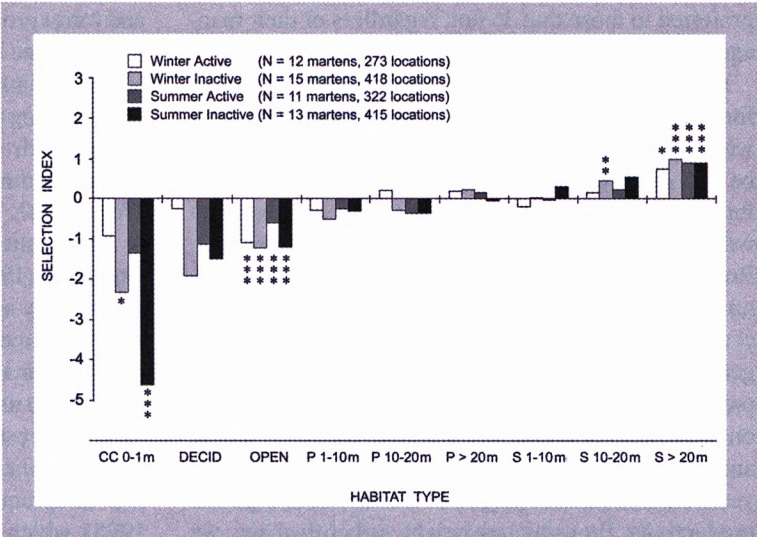


Figure 1. Ln-transformed estimated probabilities of selection ($\ln X_i$) for different habitat types by pine martens in relation to season and activity at the Grimsö (during 1986-1991) and Varaldskogen (during 1989-1991) Wildlife Research Areas. Symbols indicate level of significance: * = $P < 0.05$, ** = $P < 0.01$, *** = $P < 0.001$.

Discussion

In our study, Eurasian pine martens used a variety of habitat types within their home ranges in a forest landscape with a long history of human exploitation. We know that pine martens are capable of using various habitats from Mediterranean shrublands (Clevenger 1993), montane forests in Switzerland (Marchesi 1989), mesic pine and lowland mixed deciduous forests in Poland (Fedyk, Gebczynska, Pucek, Raczyński & Sikorski 1984, Jedrzejewski, Zalewski & Jedrzejewska 1993), to coniferous-dominated boreal forests in Fennoscandia and Russia (Grakov 1972, Pulliainen 1981a,b, Wabakken 1985, Brainerd et al. 1994, Eide 1995, Gundersen 1995). It is likely that pine martens select for certain habitats in order to avoid predators, seek shelter, and maximise foraging and reproductive success (e.g. Thompson & Harestad 1994). Thus, habitats that increase fitness by increasing the chances of survival and reproduction should be

Table 2. Significant differences between estimated selection ratios computed by the Bonferroni inequality when testing $H_0: X_a = X_b$ at the $\alpha = 0.10$ level for radio-locations ($N = 1,495$) of 19 Eurasian pine martens. The categories are listed in ascending order of preference. An asterisk indicates a significant difference between the row habitat and the column habitat, and ns indicates no significant difference.

Habitat type	CC 0-1 m	DECID	OPEN	P 1-10 m	P 10-20 m	S 1-10 m	$P \geq 20$ m	S 10-20 m
DECID	ns							
OPEN	ns	ns						
P 1-10 m	ns	ns	ns					
P 10-20 m	*	ns	*	ns				
S 1-10 m	*	ns	ns	ns	ns			
$P \geq 20$ m	*	*	*	ns	ns	ns		
S 10-20 m	*	*	*	ns	ns	ns	ns	
$S \geq 20$ m	*	*	*	*	*	ns	ns	ns

preferred to those that do not, regardless of their management history.

In this paper we examined tree height instead of forest age based on the results of Brainerd et al. (1994), who suggested that forest structure rather than age may be a more precise determinant of habitat selection for this species. Most of the forest stands in this study were even-aged, and lacked a developed understorey. Rocky glacial till, however, provided abundant underground access points for foraging and resting (Brainerd et al. 1995). Ground layer varied with soil type, and in general pine-dominated forest occurred on xeric, low productivity sites while spruce-dominated forest occurred on mesic sites of higher site productivity. Stand height and age were highly correlated, yet many stands ≤ 70 years old had attained heights of ≥ 20 m due to high site productivity. By using tree height, rather than age, we found that pine martens consistently preferred taller spruce-dominated forest and avoided open habitats throughout the year. These results generally agree with snow-tracking studies in Scandinavia and northwestern Russia (Grakov 1972, Björvall et al. 1977, Degn & Jensen 1977, Pulliainen 1981a,b, Wabakken 1985, Eide 1995, Gundersen 1995).

Pine martens have many enemies, most notably the red fox (Lindström et al. 1995). Habitats such as clearcuts and openings were probably dangerous because of the lack of escape cover. The red fox is a habitat generalist and frequently uses open habitats (Christensen 1985, Eide 1995, Gundersen 1995) shunned by pine martens. Storch et al. (1990) found that pine martens continued avoiding open habitats when an epizootic of sarcoptic mange reduced fox densities at Grimsö (Lindström, Andrén, Angelstam, Cederlund, Hörnfeldt, Jäderberg, Lemnell, Martinsson, Sköld & Swenson 1994).

The pine marten feeds upon a wide variety of food items, and its diet varies seasonally and annually (Storch et al. 1990, Helldin 1999). The bank vole *Clethrionomys glareolus* is an important prey species during winter (Storch et al. 1990), occurring in forest interiors as well as clearcuts with associated boulders (Hansson 1994). The field vole *Microtus agrestis* is a denizen of grassy, open habitats such as clearcuts and rarely penetrates forest interiors (Ims 1991, Hansson 1994). Pine martens utilise this species during summer, but not during winter (Storch et al. 1990) when snow cover may prevent subnivean access in open areas (cf. Pulliainen 1981b, Buskirk 1984, Buskirk, Forrest, Raphael & Harlow 1989). Helldin (1999) showed that consumption of microtine rodents was correlated with microtine density, and that alternate species, including mountain hares *Lepus timidus*, Eurasian red squirrels *Sciurus vulgaris*,

and forest grouse (Tetraonidae) were utilised more during microtine lows. Red squirrel, capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*, and hazel grouse *Bonasa bonasia* are associated to varying degrees with medium-aged or older seral stages, with red squirrel particularly affiliated with spruce-dominated stands (Wabakken 1985, Rolstad & Wegge 1987, Wegge, Rolstad & Gjerde 1992, Swenson & Angelstam 1993, Andrén & Delin 1994, Eide 1995, Gundersen 1995). The use of habitats by pine martens in our study areas is consistent with the habitat preferences of important prey.

When our study animals were active, they were less reluctant to use clearcuts and open habitats than when they were resting. This might be explained by the fact that they relied heavily on nests of Eurasian red squirrels in spruce trees as resting sites (Brainerd et al. 1995), which were not available in clearcuts and open habitat. As a parallel to this pattern, Buskirk (1983) found that American martens in Alaska preferred stands dominated by black spruce *Picea mariana* when active and stands dominated by white spruce *P. glauca* when inactive. The American martens often rested in red squirrel *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus* middens, which were concentrated in white spruce stands (Buskirk 1984).

We expected differential use of habitats between sexes based on studies of American martens, showing that females were more selective in choosing habitats than males (e.g. Buskirk & Powell 1994). Such selection may indicate a strategy to simultaneously maximise survival and reproduction while decreasing energetic costs. Our results did not support this hypothesis, as there was no indication of differential habitat selection between the two sexes. Elsewhere we have also shown that both sexes selected resting sites similarly throughout the year (Brainerd et al. 1995).

Although pine martens in our study areas preferred taller spruce forests and avoided open habitats, the general impression was that they displayed flexibility in habitat selection. This allowed individuals to exploit a wide range of habitats within a relatively fine-grained landscape mosaic. We hypothesise that pine marten fitness is maximised through preferential use of habitats affording the greatest opportunity for foraging, predator avoidance and shelter, i.e. spruce-dominated forest with large, mature trees, and by avoiding the habitats associated with the greatest risks and costs, i.e. clearcuts and open areas.

Acknowledgements - the research project at Grimsö was initiated by E. Lindström with funding from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. The Varaldskogen project was funded in part by the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Conservation, the Nansen Fund, and the Norwegian Research

Council. Additional funding was provided through grants from Olle och Signhild Engkvists Stiftelser, the Nordic Council for Wildlife Research, and the Nordic Academy for Advanced Study. D. Bakka, J.-O. Helldin, E. Rolstad, K. Sköld, I. Storch, L. Van Allen and numerous students helped with the fieldwork. We thank H. Andrén, W.E. Faber, and two anonymous referees for comments and discussions that improved the manuscript considerably.

References

- Aebischer, N.J., Robertson, P.A. & Kenward, R.E. 1993: Compositional analysis of habitat use from radio-tracking data. - *Ecology* 74: 1313-1325.
- Ahti, T., Hämet-Ahti, L. & Jalas, J. 1968: Vegetation zones and their sections in northwestern Europe. - *Annales Botanici Fennici* 5: 169-211.
- Aitchison, J. 1986: The statistical analysis of compositional data. - Chapman & Hall, New York, 416 pp.
- Andrén, H. & Delin, A. 1994: Habitat selection in the Eurasian red squirrel, *Sciurus vulgaris*, in relation to forest fragmentation. - *Oikos* 70: 43-48.
- Angelstam, P. 1992: Conservation of communities - the importance of edges, surroundings and landscape mosaic structure. - In: Hansson, L. (Ed.); *Ecological principles of nature conservation. Applications in temperate and boreal environments*. Elsevier Applied Science, New York, pp. 9-70.
- Angelstam, P.K. 1998: Maintaining and restoring biodiversity in European boreal forests by developing natural disturbance regimes. - *Journal of Vegetation Science* 9: 593-602.
- Björvall, A. & Lindström, D. 1991: Vinterens däggdjur och fåglar i fjällvärlden - en 10-årig skoterinventering i Norrbotten ovan odlingsgränsen. - *Naturvårdsverket rapport 3919*, Solna, Sweden, 134 pp. (In Swedish).
- Björvall, A., Nilsson, E. & Norling, L. 1977: Urskogens betydelse för tjäder och mård. - *Fauna och Flora* 72: 31-38. (In Swedish).
- Brainerd, S.M. 1990: The pine marten and forest fragmentation: a review and synthesis. - In: Myrberget, S. (Ed.); *Transactions of the 19th IUGB Congress*. Trondheim, Norway, pp. 421-434.
- Brainerd, S.M., Helldin, J.-O., Lindström, E. & Rolstad, J. 1994: Eurasian pine martens and old industrial forest in southern boreal Scandinavia. - In: Buskirk, S.W., Harestad, A., Powell, R. & Raphael, M. (Eds.); *Proceedings of the Marten/Fisher Symposium*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, pp. 343-354.
- Brainerd, S.M., Helldin, J.-O., Lindström, E.R., Rolstad, E., Rolstad, J. & Storch, I. 1995: Pine marten (*Martes martes*) selection of resting and denning sites in Scandinavian managed forests. - *Annales Zoologici Fennici* 32: 151-157.
- Buskirk, S.W. 1983: The ecology of marten in south-central Alaska. - PhD thesis, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, 131 pp.
- Buskirk, S.W. 1984: Seasonal use of resting sites by marten in south-central Alaska. - *Journal of Wildlife Management* 48: 950-953.
- Buskirk, S.W., Forrest, S.C., Raphael, M.G. & Harlow, H.J. 1989: Winter resting site ecology of marten in central Rocky Mountains. - *Journal of Wildlife Management* 53: 191-196.
- Buskirk, S.W. & Powell, R.A. 1994: Habitat ecology of fishers and American martens. - In: Buskirk, S.W., Harestad, A., Powell, R. & Raphael, M. (Eds.); *Proceedings of the Marten/Fisher Symposium*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, pp. 283-296.
- Cederlund, G.N. & Lemnell, P.A. 1979: A simplified technique for mobile radio-tracking. - In: Amlaner, C.J., Jr. & MacDonald, D.W. (Eds.); *A handbook on biotelemetry and radiotracking*. Pergamon Press, Oxford, UK, pp. 319-322.
- Cederlund, G.N., Dreyfert, T. & Lemnell, P.A. 1979: Radio-tracking technique and reliability of systems used for larger birds and mammals. - *Swedish Environmental Protection Board PM 1136*, 102 pp.
- Chapin, T.G., Harrison, D.J. & Phillips, D.M. 1997: Seasonal habitat selection by marten in an untrapped forest preserve. - *Journal of Wildlife Management* 61: 707-717.
- Christensen, H. 1985: Biotopvalg, adferd og næring hos rev (*Vulpes vulpes* L.) vinterstid i et barskogområde på Østlandet. - M.Sc. thesis, University of Oslo, Oslo, 79 pp. (In Norwegian).
- Clevenger, A.P. 1993: Spring and summer food habits and habitat use of the European pine marten (*Martes martes*) on the island of Minorca, Spain. - *Journal of Zoology* 229: 153-161.
- Degn, H.J. & Jensen, B. 1977: Skovmåren (*Martes martes*) i Danmark. (In Danish with an English summary: The pine marten (*Martes martes*) in Denmark). - *Danske vildtundersøgelser* 29: 5-20.
- Eide, N.E. 1995: Ecological factors affecting the spatial distribution of mountain hare, red fox, pine marten and roe deer in a southern boreal forest during winter. - M.Sc. thesis, Agricultural University of Norway, Ås, 49 pp.
- Esseen, P.-A., Ehnström, B., Ericson, L. & Sjöberg, K. 1992: Boreal forests - the focal habitats of Fennoscandia. - In: Hansson, L. (Ed.); *Ecological principles of nature conservation. Applications in temperate and boreal environments*. Elsevier Applied Science, New York, pp. 252-325.
- Fedyk, S., Gebczynska, Z., Pucek, M., Raczynski, J. & Sikorski, M.D. 1984: Winter penetration by mammals of different habitats in the Biebrza Valley. - *Acta Theriologica* 29: 317-336.
- Gamlin, L. 1988: Sweden's factory forests. - *New Scientist* 117: 41-47.
- Garshelis, D.L. 2000: Delusions in habitat evaluation: Measuring use, selection, and importance. - In: Boitani, L. & Fuller, T.K. (Eds.); *Research techniques in animal ecology. Controversies and consequences*. Columbia University Press, New York, pp. 111-164.
- Grakov, N.N. 1972: Vliyanie kontsentrirorvanykh rubok lesa na chislennost' lesnoi kunitsy. (In Russian with an English summary: Effect of concentrated clearfellings on the abundance of pine marten (*Martes martes* L.)). - *Bulletin of Moscow Society of Naturalists, Biological Series (Byullye-*

- tyen Moskovskogo obscheystva icpyatyecheya prirodi. *Otdeyi biologicheskii* 77: 14-23.
- Gundersen, V.S. 1995: Habitatbruk hos mår vinterstid. - M.Sc. thesis, Agricultural University of Norway, Ås, 40 pp. (In Norwegian).
- Hansson, L. 1994: Vertebrate distributions relative to clearcut edges in a boreal forest landscape. - *Landscape Ecology* 9: 105-115.
- Helldin, J.-O. 1997: Age determination of Eurasian pine martens by radiographs of teeth in situ. - *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 25: 83-88.
- Helldin, J.-O. 1999: Diet, body condition, and reproduction of Eurasian pine marten (*Martes martes*) during cyclic micro-tine density. - *Ecography* 22: 324-336.
- Imms, R.A. 1991: Smågnagerne og bestandsskogbruket. (In Norwegian with English summary: Small rodent population dynamics and the effects of modern forestry). - *Fauna* 44: 62-69.
- Jedrzejewski, W., Zalewski, A. & Jedrzejewska, B. 1993: Foraging by pine marten *Martes martes* in relation to food resources in Białowieża National Park, Poland. - *Acta Theriologica* 38: 405-426.
- Johnson, D.H. 1980: The comparison of usage and availability measurements for evaluating resource preference. - *Ecology* 61: 65-71.
- Jones, J. 2001: Habitat selection studies in avian ecology: A critical review. - *Auk* 118: 557-562.
- Kenward, R.E. 1990: RANGES IV. Software for analysing animal location data. - Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Wareham, U.K., 33 pp.
- Kenward, R.E. 1992: Quantity versus quality: programmed collection and analysis of radio-tracking data. - In: Priede, I.G. & Swift, S.M. (Eds.); *Wildlife telemetry: remote monitoring and tracking of animals*. Ellis Horwood, New York, pp. 231-246.
- Korpimäki, E. & Norrdahl, K. 1989: Avian predation on mustelids in Europe. 1. Occurrence and effects on body size variation and life traits. - *Oikos* 55: 205-215.
- Lindström, E.R., Andrén, H., Angelstam, P., Cederlund, G., Hörmfeldt, B., Jäderberg, L., Lemnell, P.-A., Martinsson, B., Sköld, K. & Swenson, J. 1994: Disease reveals the predator: Sarcoptic mange, red fox predation, and prey populations. - *Ecology* 75: 1042-1049.
- Lindström, E.R., Brainerd, S.M., Helldin, J.-O. & Overskaug, K. 1995: Pine marten-red fox interactions: a case of intra-guild predation? - *Annales Zoologici Fennici* 32: 123-130.
- Linnell, J.D.C., Odden, J., Pedersen, V. & Andersen, R. 1998: Records of intra-guild predation by Eurasian Lynx, *Lynx lynx*. - *Canadian Field Naturalist* 112: 707-708.
- Manly, B.F.J., McDonald, L.L. & Thomas, D.L. 1993: Resource selection by animals. Statistical design and analysis for field studies. - Chapman and Hall, London, UK, 177 pp.
- Marchesi, P. 1989: Ecologie et comportement de la martre (*Martes martes* L.) dans le Jura Suisse. (In French with English summary: The ecology of the pine marten in the Swiss Jura Mountains). - PhD thesis, University of Neuchâtel, France, 185 pp.
- McClean, S.A., Rumble, M.A., King, R.M. & Baker, W.L. 1998: Evaluation of resource selection methods with different definitions of availability. - *Journal of Wildlife Management* 62: 793-801.
- McDonald, L.L., Reed, D.J. & Erickson, W. 1991: Analysis procedures for habitat and food selection studies. - In: Butler, C.E. & Mahoney, S.P. (Eds.); *Proceedings of the 4th North American Caribou Workshop*. St. John's Newfoundland, Newfoundland and Labrador Wildlife Division, pp. 429-474.
- Mohr, C.O. 1947: Table of equivalent populations of North American small mammals. - *American Midland Naturalist* 37: 223-249.
- Neu, C.W., Byers, C.R., Peek, J.M. & Boy, V. 1974: A technique for analysis of utilization-availability data. - *Journal of Wildlife Management* 38: 541-545.
- Niklasson, M. & Granström, A. 2000: Numbers and sizes of fires: Long-term spatially explicit fire history in a Swedish boreal landscape. - *Ecology* 81: 1484-1499.
- Nyholm, E.S. 1970: Näddän elintavoista, saalistuksesta ja ravinnosta. (In Finnish with an English summary: On the ecology of the pine marten (*Martes martes*) in eastern and northern Finland). - *Suomen Riista* 22: 105-118.
- Pulliainen, E. 1981a: A transect survey of small land carnivore and red fox populations on a subarctic fell in Finnish Forest Lapland over 13 winters. - *Annales Zoologici Fennici* 18: 270-278.
- Pulliainen, E. 1981b: Winter habitat selection, home range, and movements of the pine marten (*Martes martes*) in a Finnish Lapland forest in winter. - In: Chapman, J.A. & Pursley, D. (Eds.); *Proceedings of the Worldwide Furbearer Conference*. Frostburg, Maryland, pp. 1068-1087.
- Rolstad, J. & Wegge, P. 1987: Capercaillie habitat: a critical assessment of the role of old forest. - In: Lovel, T. & Hudson, P. (Eds.); *Proceedings of the 4th International Grouse Symposium*, Lam, Germany. World Pheasant Association, Reading, UK, pp. 235-250.
- Rolstad, J. & Wegge, P. 1989: Effects of logging on capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*) leks. II. Cutting experiments in southeastern Norway. - *Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research* 4: 111-127.
- Sokal, R.R. & Rohlf, F.J. 1981: Biometry. The principles and practices of statistics in biological research. Second Edition. - Freeman, San Francisco, 859 pp.
- Steventon, J.D. & Major, J.T. 1982: Marten use of habitat in a commercially clearcut forest. - *Journal of Wildlife Management* 46: 175-182.
- Storch, I., Lindström, E. & de Jonge, J. 1990: Habitat selection and food habits of the pine marten in relation to competition with the red fox. - *Acta Theriologica* 35: 311-320.
- Swenson, J.E. & Angelstam, P. 1993: Habitat separation by sympatric forest grouse in Fennoscandia in relation to boreal forest succession. - *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 71: 1303-1310.
- Swihart, R.K. & Slade, N.A. 1985: Testing for independence of observations in animal movements. - *Ecology* 66: 1176-1184.

- Tenow, O. 1974: Development of forested landscape and forest use in Fennoscandia up to the 20th century - an outline. - Internal Report No. 2, Swedish Coniferous Forest Project, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden, 34 pp.
- Thomas, D.L. & Taylor, E.J. 1990: Study designs and tests for comparing resource use and availability. - *Journal of Wildlife Management* 54: 322-330.
- Thompson, I.D. 1991: Could marten become the spotted owl of eastern Canada? - *Forestry Chronicle* 67: 136-140.
- Thompson, I.D. 1994: Marten populations in uncut mature and post-logging boreal forests in Ontario. - *Journal of Wildlife Management* 57: 272-280.
- Thompson, I.D. & Harestad, A.S. 1994: Effects of logging on American martens and models for habitat management. - In: Buskirk, S.W., Harestad, A., Powell, R. & Raphael, M. (Eds.); *Proceedings of the Marten/Fisher Symposium*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, pp. 355-367.
- Wabakken, P. 1985: Vinternæring, habitatbruk og jaktadferd hos mår (*Martes martes*) i sørøst-norsk barskog. - M.Sc. thesis, University of Oslo, Oslo, 85 pp. (In Norwegian).
- Wegge, P., Rolstad, J. & Gjerde, I. 1992: Effects of boreal forest fragmentation on capercaillie grouse. - In: McCullough, D.R. & Barrett, R.H. (Eds.); *Wildlife 2001*. Elsevier Applied Science, New York, pp. 738-749.
- White, G.C. & Garrott, R.A. 1990: Analysis of wildlife radio-tracking data. - Academic Press, San Diego, 383 pp.
- Zackrisson, O. 1977: Influence of forest fires on the north Swedish boreal forest. - *Oikos* 29: 22-32.