

---

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : It's snake time!

Re: It's snake time!

Author: : BeastBrown

Date: : 2013/6/10 22:59:03

URL:

I fully get what you are saying pcray, and from what I understand the most accurate models of Lyme disease incidence rates are tied to acorn crops at 2 years prior, which then affects a mouse population in crash and boom cycles, which then leads to lack of mouse host in crash year, which translates to increased tick counts on human hosts.

At any rate, to the point of tick habitat, which I guess could be a function of mouse and chipmunk habitat(white-footed or otherwise-addressing tick population here, not lyme rate). The area of highest snake encounters for me are gorges around water in June, not far from large snake hibernaculums of multiple species, venomous and not. So, the question becomes why are these snakes here if not for a large mouse and chipmunk population?

They are wintering here, yes, but in summer they are still here, sunning, and moving up into rhododendrons and ferns, as well as boulders to hunt.

Now, my line of reasoning is that they are here for the mice and chipmunks and are keeping their populations stable. Granted, mouse populations could explode or crash so sharply at certain times that the snakes may have little effect.

However, they may just keep mouse and tick populations stable to low, in years of moderation. I understand that the tick, mouse, snake population is very complex, but in an area of large snake presence I think they can certainly be a heavily weighted factor in keeping tick populations lower in an equation with many variables.