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**Does the Marten Cross the Road?:
Spatial Behavior of American Martens in Relation to a Four-lane Highway**
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Abstract

We study the spatial behaviour of American martens along a section of Highway 175 to uncover how this species responded to the widening of the highway from 2 to 4 lanes. Previous monitoring has shown that martens do not normally use wildlife passages in the study area, therefore it is necessary to examine if and how often martens cross the road to understand the degree of isolation of populations on opposite sides of Highway 175. Highways are an important cause of direct mortality and habitat fragmentation for wild mammals, therefore posing a threat to biodiversity conservation. With increasing urban sprawl more wildlife harbouring areas are crossed by highways. Also, areas proposed as ecological corridors (including urban ecological corridors) may be bisected by highways featuring or not wildlife passages. In this sense, the relation of wildlife species with highways and wildlife passages must be better understood to mitigate the loss of biodiversity in urban areas.

Bio

Rodrigo Lima is a biologist interested in biodiversity conservation and mammal ecology. He has conducted studies on endangered species in the tropics and more recently has focused his research on Canadian mammals. Rodrigo obtained his MSc. degree from McGill University in 2012 and currently works as a research associate at Dr. Jochen Jaeger's lab in the Geography Department of Concordia University. On his free time he enjoys travelling, camping, and trekking.

