

ISLAND FOXES

Channel Islands



About

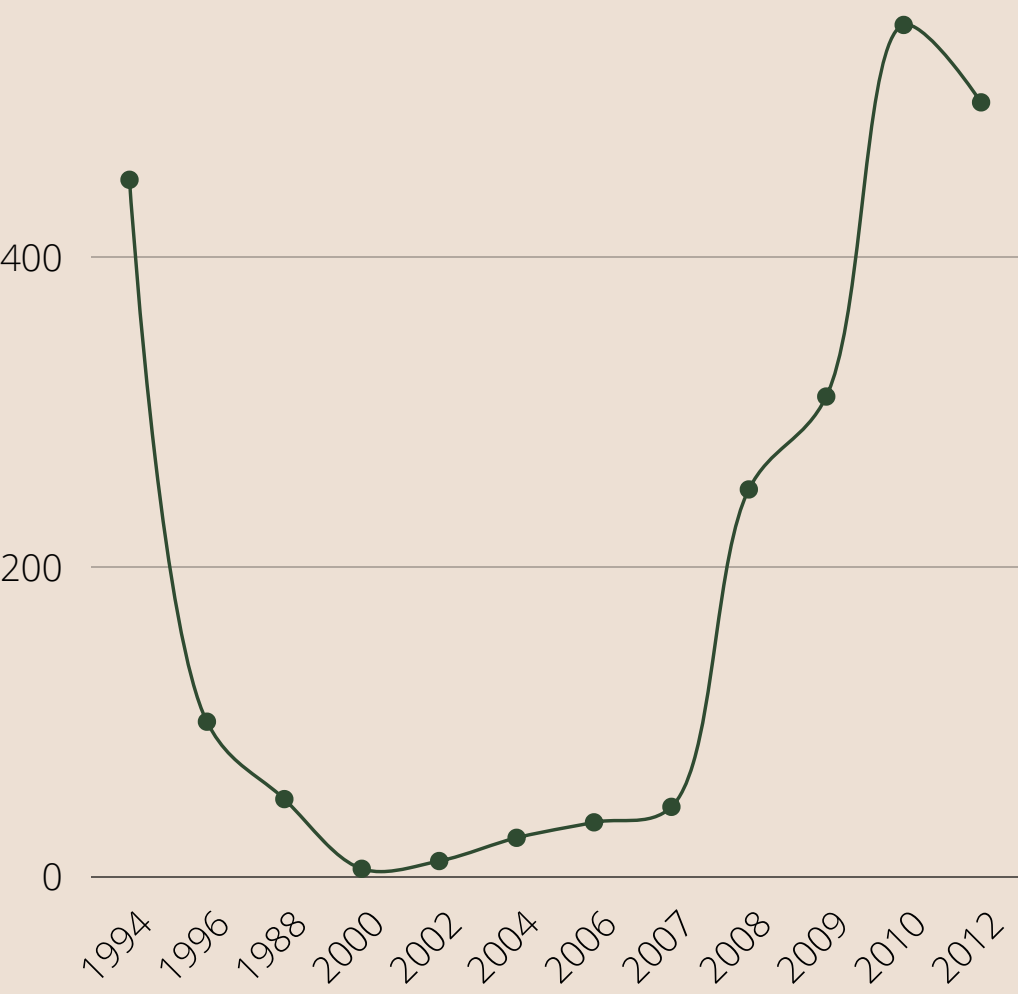
The island fox is a small fox that is endemic to six of the eight Channel Islands of California. There are six subspecies, each unique to the island it lives on, reflecting its evolutionary history. They are generally docile, show little fear of humans, and are easily tamed.

Brink Of Extinction

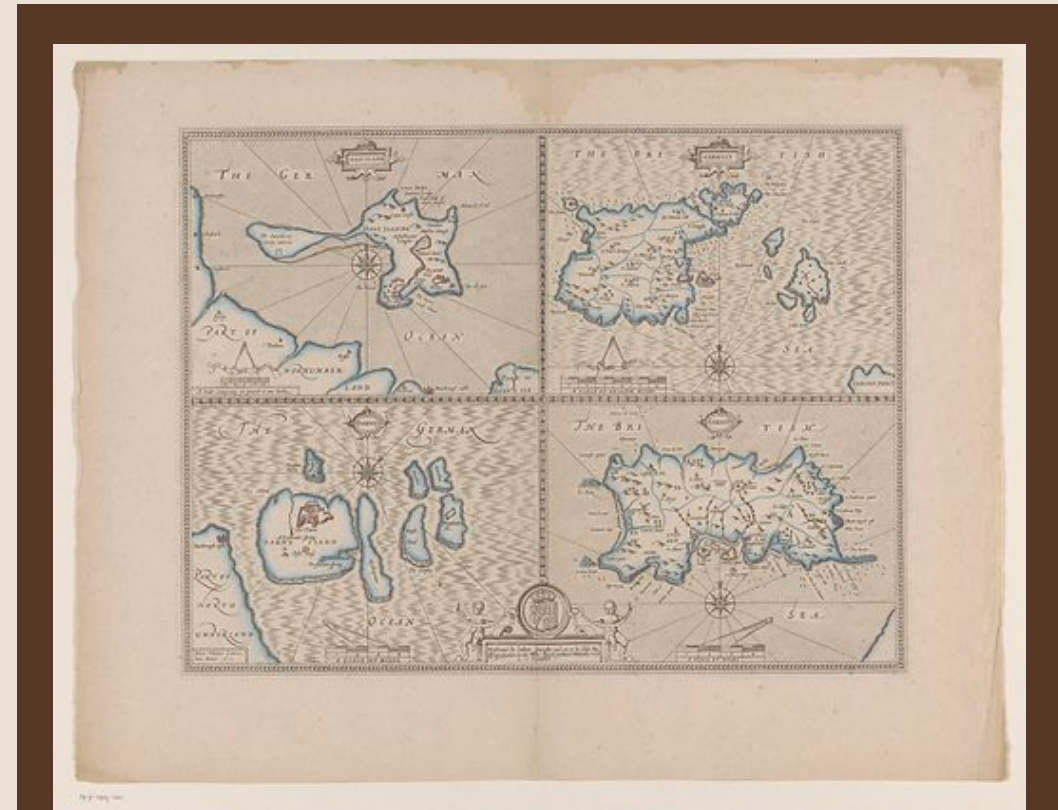
By start of 2021, Conservancy scientists estimated there are over 1800 foxes on Catalina. The Catalina Island fox population fluctuates yearly due to natural variation in rainfall and resource availability and shows that we have a healthy population near carrying capacity.

Recovery

In 1999, Channel Islands National Park began an island fox recovery program that included captive breeding and reintroduction of foxes, removal of resident golden eagles, re-establishment of bald eagles, and removal of non-native ungulates.



Population



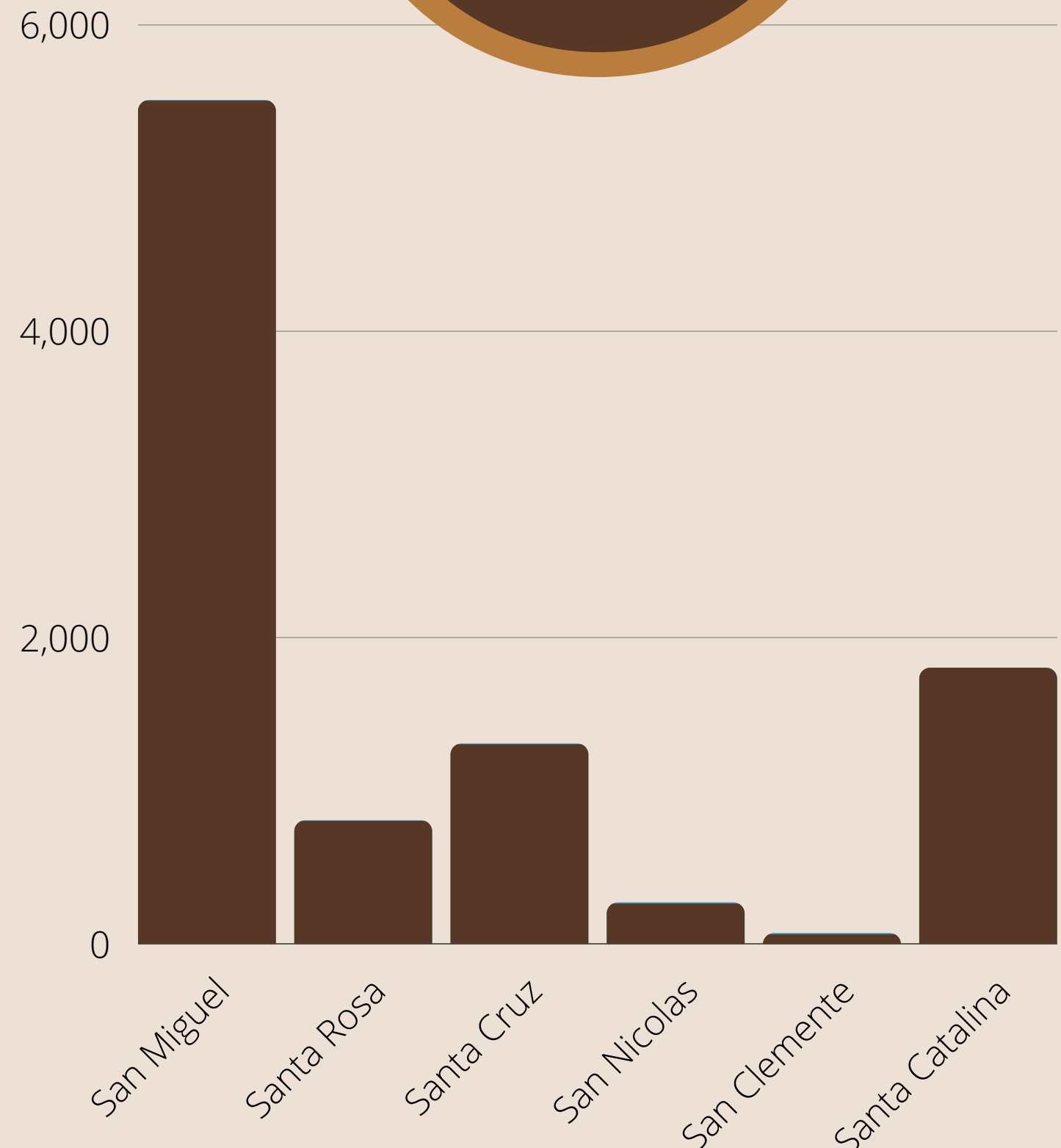
Facts

- Can live up to 15 years
- island foxes have no natural predators
- They communicate by barking and sometimes growling
- It is the only carnivore unique to California

Diet

Island foxes are omnivorous, eating both plants and other animals. They eat a large amount of insects, some island deer mice, reptiles, and fruit from native plants. New evidence is showing marine resources may be important for island foxes. Their diet also changes with the seasons

Island Populations



Islands

- On each of the six islands, a different subspecies occurs, distinguished by both genetic and physical differences
- island fox date back to 10,400 to 16,000 years ago
- The Chumash considered the fox to be a sacred animal--a pet of the sun, and possibly a dream helper.