

Putting the Brakes on Roadkill 公路动物悲歌

For some wildlife, the **motorways** of the United States are killing grounds. Each year, millions of **vertebrates**, including **carnivores** like wolves, bears, [mountain lions](#), [lynxes](#) and [ocelots](#), as well as slow-moving animals like turtles and other **reptiles**, are hit and killed by passing cars. Roads may be vital to modern life, but they are deadly to a **slew** of creatures.

对某些野生动物来说，美国的高速公路是个大屠杀场。每年都有好几百万的脊椎动物，包括了肉食性的狼、熊、美洲狮、山猫、和豹猫，也有一些慢速动物像是乌龟及其它爬虫类，被经过的车子给撞死。道路对现代生活来说或许很重要，但它们却让许多动物赔上性命。

In a number of places, traffic is threatening the very survival of some species. For example, [roadkill](#) has **contributed to** the **reduction** of the **federally**-protected ocelot to a population of only 80 animals. Thankfully, steps have been and are being taken to help reduce the daily and nightly **carnage** on America's roads. **Underpasses** and [culverts](#) have been **constructed** so that animals can walk underneath roads rather than run the risk of crossing them. Fences and barriers, used in conjunction with the underpasses and culverts, help to direct animals to these safe places to cross.

许多地方，交通威胁着某些物种仅存的生存空间。例如，「路杀事件」已导致受联邦政府保护的豹猫数量降到仅剩八十只。谢天谢地，已有措施来帮助降低在美国道路上的日夜屠杀。地下通道和涵洞桥已经建造起来，如此一来，动物们便可以在马路下方行走，而不用冒险穿越马路了。栅栏、围篱与地下道及沟渠结合起来，协助引导动物们经由这些安全的地方穿越马路。

The results **to date** have been visibly pleasing, with researchers noting a sharp reduction in the number of roadkill incidents each year. More pleasing still is that species which were **previously** considered under the threat of **extinction**, in part because of roadkill, are starting to see a rise in their numbers. And this just goes to show that road safety is about more than protecting people.

到目前为止，研究人员指出每年的路杀事件已急遽下降，这样的成效令人感到欣慰。更令人开心的是，许多先前部分因为路杀事件而被认为面临绝种威胁的物种，其数量开始增加了。由此可看出，道路安全可不只是要保护人们而已。

—by Colin Gread

Vocabulary

reptile [ˈrɛptl̩] n. 爬虫类

reduction [rɪˈdʌkʃən] n. 减少

construct [kənˈstrʌkt] v. 建造

previously [ˈprɪviəsli] adv. 事先；以前

extinction [ɪkˈstɪŋkʃən] n. 灭绝

More Information

motorway [ˈmɒtə,weɪ] n. 【英】高速公路

vertebrate [ˈvɜːtə,breɪt] n. 脊椎动物

carnivore [ˈkɑːnɪvɔːr] n. 食肉动物

lynx [lɪŋks] n. 山猫

ocelot [ˈosələt] n. 豹猫

slew [sluː] n. 【口】许多

contribute [kənˈtrɪbjʊt] v. 贡献，提供[(+to/towards)]; 对某事起促成作用

federally [ˈfɛdərəli] adv. 联邦地；在联邦政府一级

carnage [ˈkɑːnɪdʒ] n. 大屠杀

underpass [ˈʌndə,pæs] n. 地下通道，下穿交叉道

culvert [ˈkʌlvɜːt] n. 排水渠，阴沟，涵洞

to date : 迄今；至今；到目前为止 until now