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Coyote Activity Overlap with Prey and Non-Prey Species

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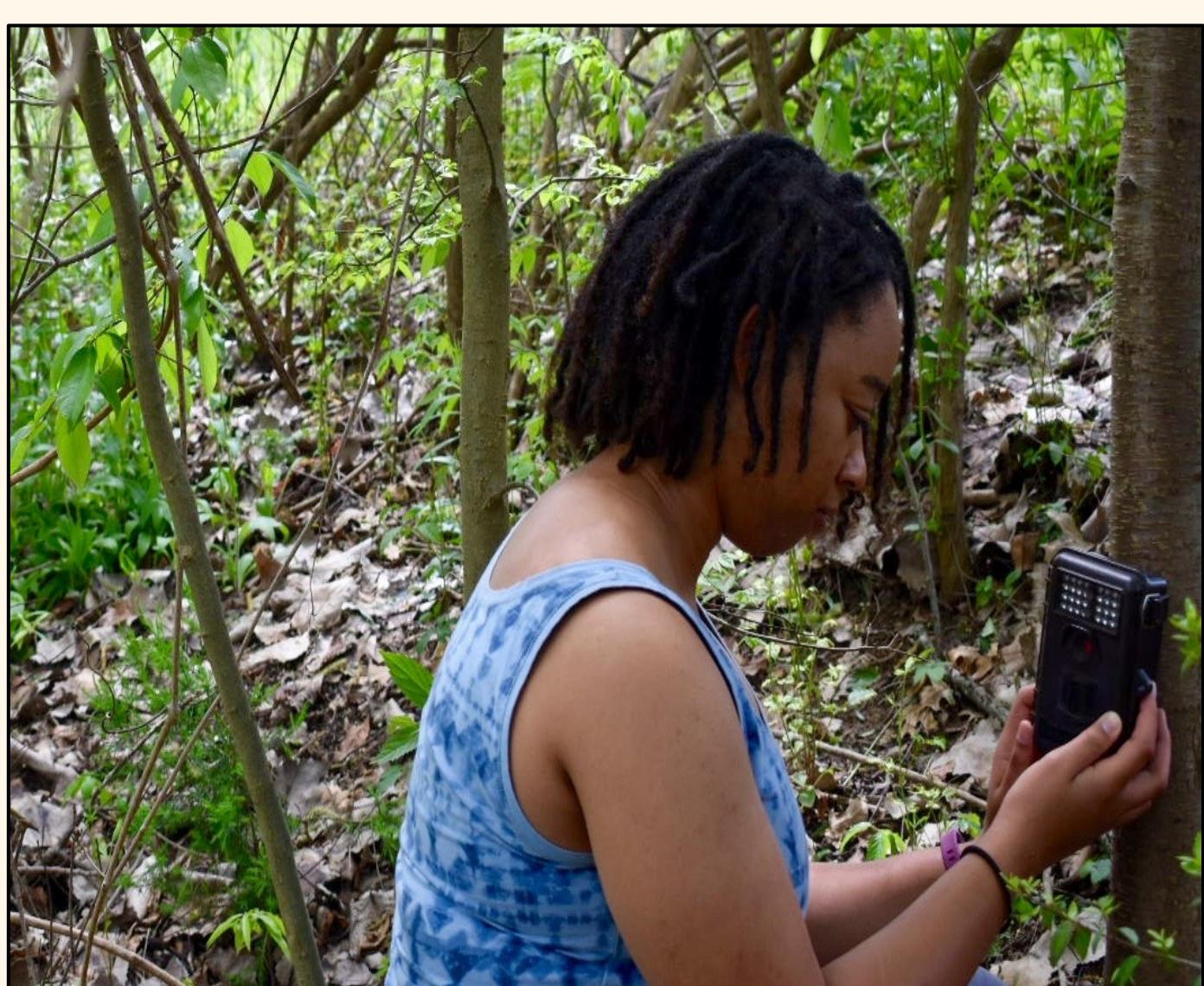
Burgess M., Schmidt C., Baruzzi C., Dykstra A., Boggess M., Lashley M.

Objective

- Predator activity is commonly reported to overlap more with prey than non-prey species.
- This has never been tested with coyotes, so we wanted to determine if coyote activity overlaps more with prey or non-prey species.

Methods

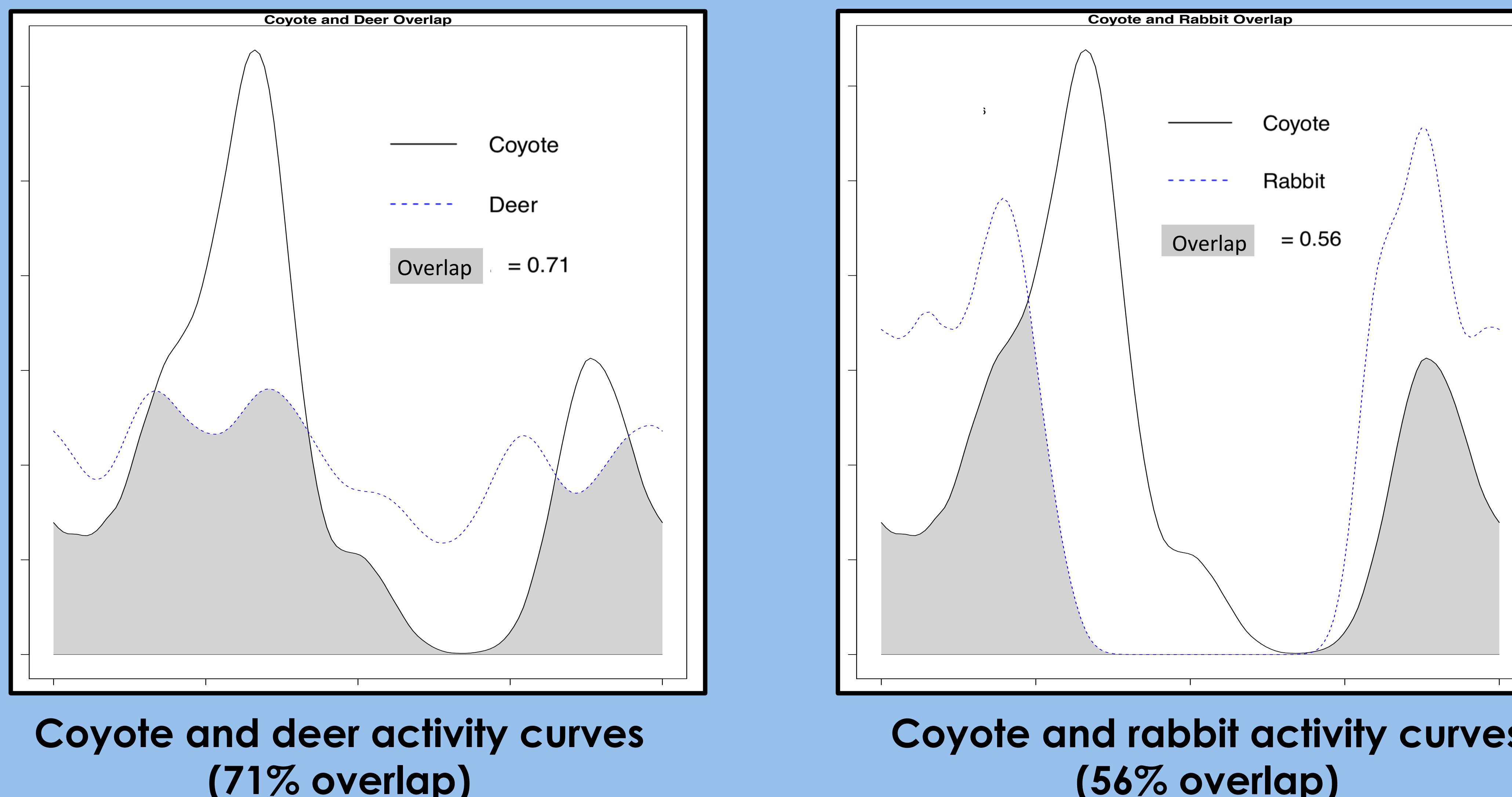
- Study Area: Marshall County, MS.
- 30 camera traps were deployed July – November 2017.
- An activity overlap analysis was used to compare similarities between coyote and other species activity.



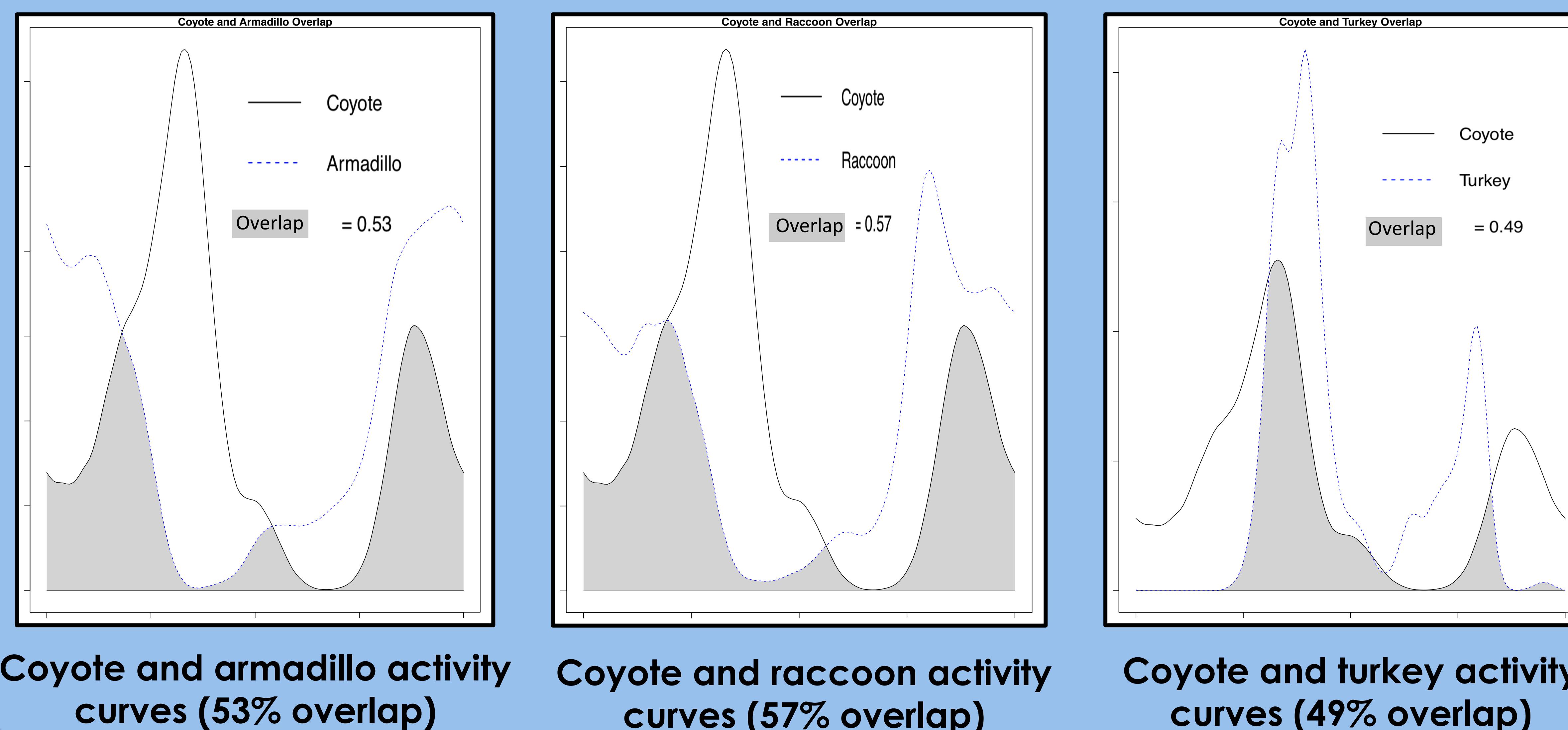
Results

- Coyote activity patterns tended to overlap more with prey (average 64%) than non-prey (average 53%).

Prey average of 64% activity overlap



Non-prey average of 53% activity overlap



Conclusions

- Our results confirm what has already been reported for other species: coyotes activity pattern has a higher overlap with prey species.
- Activity overlap may be a useful tool to infer coyote diet. However, results should be interpreted with caution because coyotes are generalist predators and may change their diet rapidly to exploit newly available prey.

Acknowledgements

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