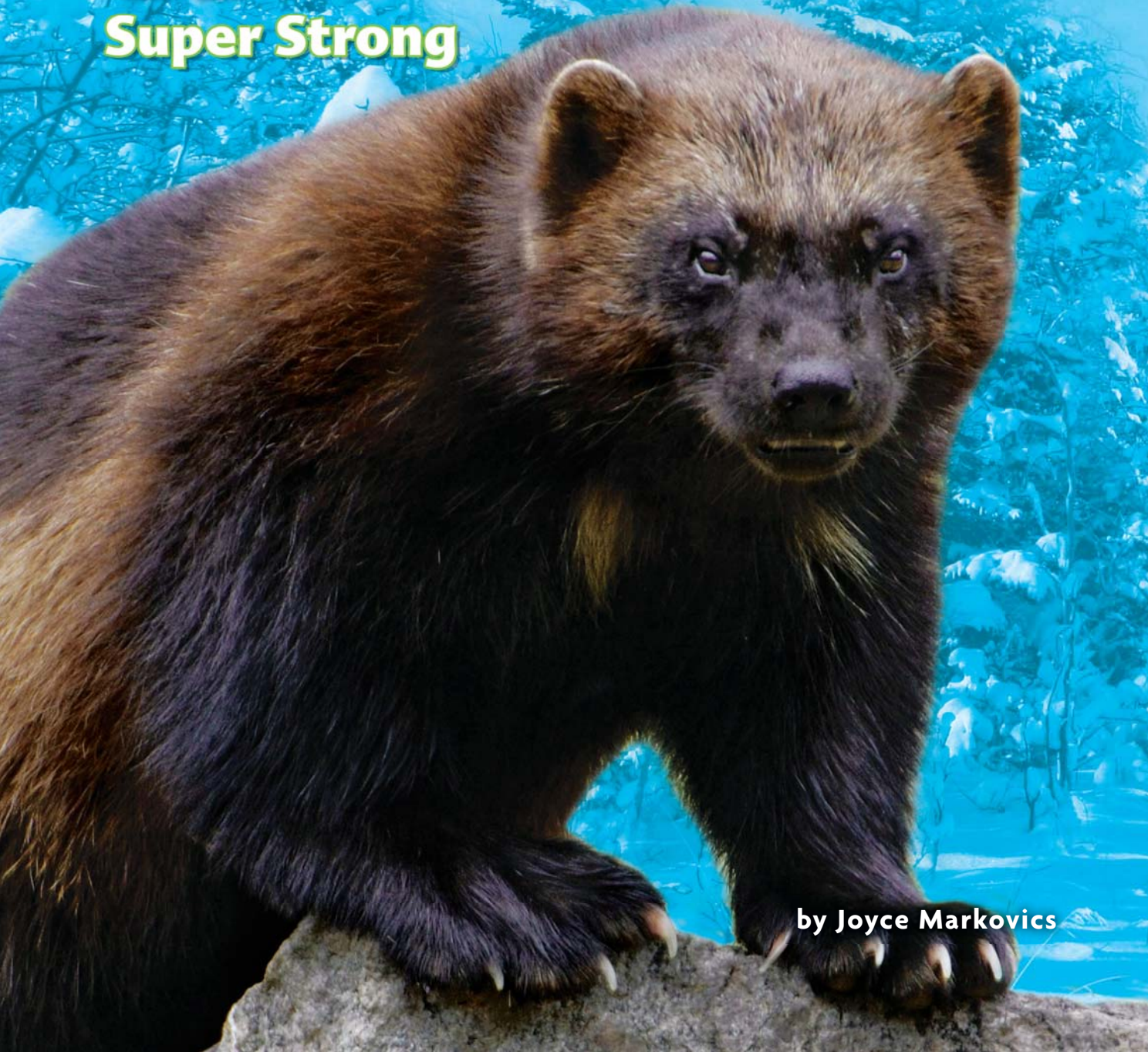




Wolverine

Super Strong



by Joyce Markovics

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Super Strong



by Joyce Markovics

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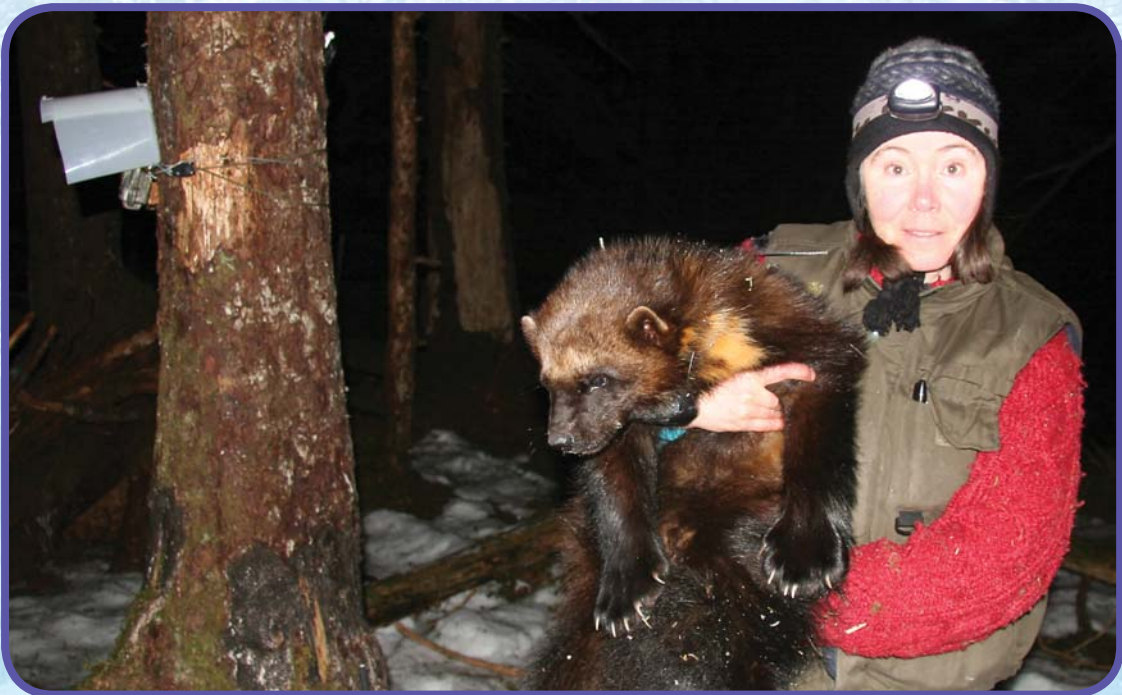
An Arctic Search

It was 2007, and from up in a small airplane **biologist** Audrey Magoun was scanning the snowy Alaskan ground below. She was on the lookout for a wolverine. She had been studying the animals for the past 30 years. Suddenly, she saw a ball of brown fur below. Audrey's excitement grew. Could this be the animal she was looking for?



A wolverine in Alaska

This sighting reminded Audrey of a time earlier in her career when she **tracked** a male wolverine named Roody. Finding Roody had not been easy. The plane Audrey was traveling in had to make several passes over the white, treeless **tundra** where Roody lived. Yet Audrey still couldn't spot him. Finally, though, she saw something below. "I realized it was the brown fur of the wolverine caked with blowing snow," said Audrey. However, Roody was not moving. Audrey feared that the wolverine was dead.



Roody was a wolverine that Audrey had previously put a **radio collar** on. His collar gave out a signal that helped Audrey track his movements.

Audrey, shown here, loves studying wolverines because they are so rare and very little is known about them.

Wolverine Surprise!

Audrey needed to get a closer look. So the pilot landed the plane about 50 feet (15 m) from where Roody was lying. When Audrey hopped out of the plane, she could see Roody's bushy tail poking out of the snow. The front of his body, however, was buried under a snowdrift.



**Audrey in the area where
she spotted Roody**

All of a sudden, Audrey saw Roody twitch. To be sure that Roody was okay, Audrey decided to gently tug his tail. “When my hand was only four inches (10 cm) from his fur,” she said, “there was a sudden explosion of snow, fur, and **guttural** rumbling—and there I was face-to-face with Roody!” Seconds later, the surprised wolverine sped away across the tundra.



When Audrey looked inside the hole Roody had been in, she discovered what he’d been doing—eating a frozen ground squirrel. Wolverines sometimes bury food in **caches** during the summer. They do this so that they don’t go hungry when food is **scarce** during the long, cold winter.



A ground squirrel



This wolverine is looking for food in the snow.

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About the Author

Joyce Markovics is an editor, writer, and orchid collector. She is grateful for scientists like Audrey Magoun who devote themselves to studying Earth's wildest creatures.

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Wolverine

Super Strong

In 2007, biologist Audrey Magoun scanned the snowy Alaskan landscape from a small airplane. She was looking for a wolverine, an animal that she had been studying for the past 30 years. Suddenly, she saw a ball of brown fur below. Could it be the animal she'd been searching for?

Look inside to find out how Audrey and other Arctic researchers track and study wolverines—rough, tough animals that are always on the go. You'll also discover how wolverines are built to survive in some of the coldest places on Earth, how they hunt and protect themselves from enemies—and how humans can help save them and their icy habitat.

Arctic Wolf
The High Arctic

Caribou
And Reindeer, Too

Polar Bear
Shrinking Ice

Sled Dog
Powerful Miracle

Walrus
Tusk, Tusk

Wolverine
Super Strong

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