MARK AND CAPTURE ASSUMPTIONS  
The accuracy of this method rests on a number of assumptions, including the following:  
  
1). During the interval between the preliminary marking period and the subsequent recapture period, nothing has happened to upset the proportions of marked to unmarked animals (that is, no new individuals were born or immigrated into the population, and none died or emigrated).

2). The chances for each individual in the population to be caught are equal and constant for both the initial marking period and the recapture period. That is, marked individuals must not become either easier or more difficult to catch.

3). Sufficient time must be allowed between the initial marking period and the recapture period for all marked individuals to be randomly dispersed throughout the population (so that assumption 2 above holds).  However, the time period must not be so long that assumption 1 breaks down.

4). Animals are not affected by their marks (i.e., their survival, catchability, ability to migrate, reproductive ability in the time interval are all unaffected by the marks).

5). Animals do not lose their marks.

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