

FIELD GUIDE TO NORTH AMERICAN MAMMALS

Bobcat
(Lynx rufus)

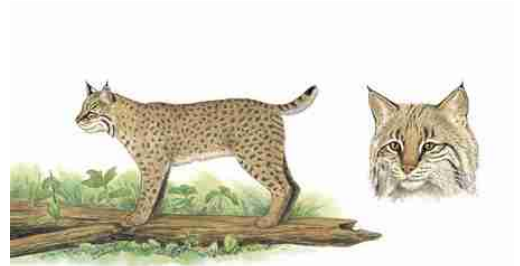
ORDER: Carnivora
FAMILY: Felidae

The Bobcat is the most widely distributed native cat in North America. Bobcats occupy many habitat types, from desert to swamp to mountains. They are mostly nocturnal predators, taking quarry ranging in size from mouse to deer. Rabbits and hares make up a large part of the bobcat's diet. Like Lynx, male and female Bobcats maintain territories by scent-marking. An individual's territory does not overlap with another Bobcat's of the same sex, but females' home ranges can fall within the territories of males. Females breed sooner than males, at about one year of age; males are ready to breed when they are about two. One litter, with an average of three kittens, is born each year.

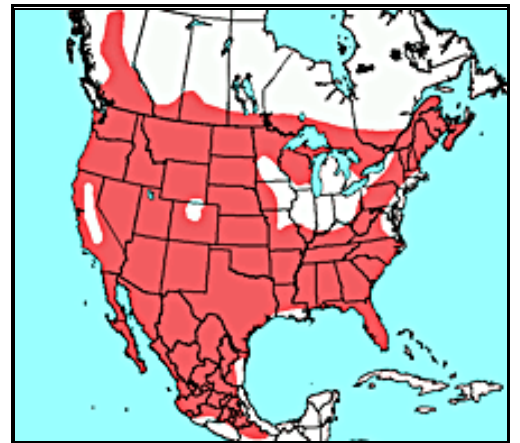
Also known as:
Wildcat, Bay Lynx, Barred Bobcat, Pallid Bobcat, Red Lynx

Length:
Average: 869 mm males; 786 mm females
Range: 475–1,252 mm males; 610–1,219 mm females

Weight:
Average: 12 kg males; 9 kg females
Range: 7.2–31 kg males; 3.8–24 kg females



Credit: painting by Consie Powell from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



FIELD NOTES

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Jaguar
(Panthera onca)

ORDER: Carnivora
FAMILY: Felidae

Conservation Status: Near Threatened.

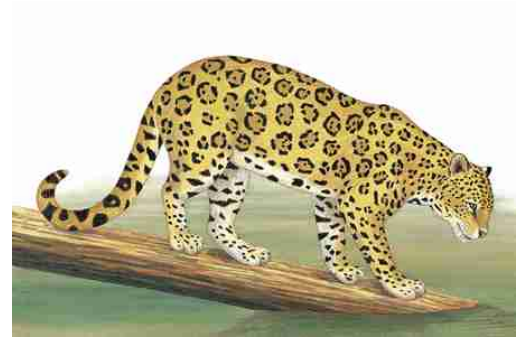
Once native to the southwestern United States, breeding populations of Jaguars no longer exist in the region, and populations in Central and South America have become very small. Only in parts of the Amazon rain forest and the Pantanal are they relatively abundant. These giant spotted cats are the largest felids in the Americas. They are flesh-eaters, hunting by day or night; they concentrate on the most common of the large mammals living in their particular area. Very capable swimmers, they also sometimes hunt along watercourses, taking prey such as caiman, turtles, and fish. The home range of a Jaguar varies from 10–170 square km. They are not territorial, but do avoid one another, occasionally by calling out in a series of deep grunts, sounds that travel well through thick forest

Also known as:
Tigre

Sexual Dimorphism:
Males are 10%–20% larger than females.

Length:
Range: 1,100–1,850 mm

Weight:
Range: 31–158 kg



Credit: painting by Consie Powell from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



FIELD NOTES

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Cougar
(*Puma concolor*)

ORDER: Carnivora
FAMILY: Felidae

Conservation Status: Two subspecies *P. concolor coryi*, the Florida Panther, and *P. concolor cougar*, the Eastern Cougar, are Critically Endangered; the parent species is Near Threatened.

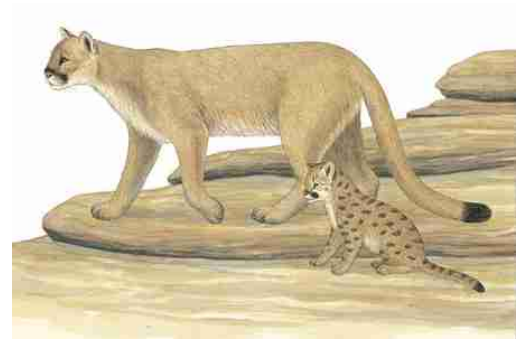
Cougars avoid open habitats such as flat, shrubless deserts and farm fields, but can make a living in swamps, forests, and desert scrub habitat. They live solitary lives at low population densities, and usually avoid humans, but about four attacks are reported annually in the United States and Canada. Cougars hunt at night, either stalking their prey or waiting in ambush to pounce. They take hoofed mammals, sometimes including domestic livestock, and other prey, including rabbits, hares, porcupines, bobcats, coyotes, beavers, opossums, skunks, and even other Cougars. They rarely bed down in the same place two days in a row unless they are watching young or consuming a large kill. Some states and provinces allow Cougars to be hunted for sport

Also known as:
Mountain Lion, Puma, Florida Panther, Catamount

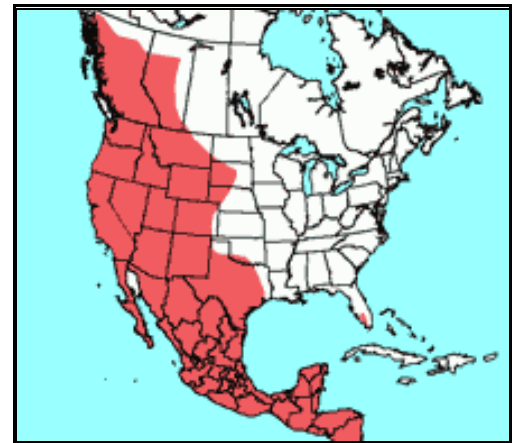
Sexual Dimorphism:
Males are significantly heavier than females.

Length:
Average: 1,270 mm males; 1,140 mm females
Range: 1,020–1,540 mm males; 860–1,310 mm females

Weight:
Average: 62 kg males; 42 kg females
Range: 36–120 kg males; 29–64 kg females



Credit: painting by Consie Powell from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



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