



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Pocket Guide to Ocelots

Laguna Atascosa

National Wildlife Refuge

Pocket Guide to Ocelots

Distinguishing characteristics

- Medium sized cat (15—30 lbs) with distinct black bordered markings.
- Long, ringed tail that is nearly one-third the length of its body.
- Slightly rounded ears.
- Prefers dense brush, where it hunts for birds, snakes and rodents.



Endangered

Ocelots used to be found from South Texas up into Arkansas and Louisiana. Today, there are less than 50 ocelots left in the U.S. and all are found in the lower Rio Grande Valley.

Bobcats

Distinguishing characteristics:

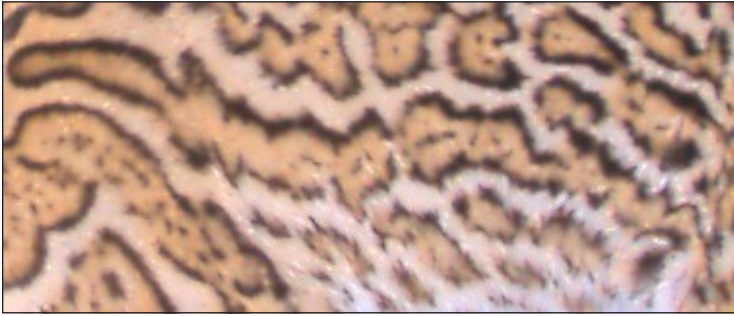
- Light brown to gray coat. Might have spots on coat but they are more subtle.



- Short tail with white tip.
- Ears are more pointed than ocelot with tuft of hair at tip.
- Often have cheek tufts.
- Larger than an ocelot.
- Found in various habitat types, including forest, coastal, wetlands, as well as near urban areas.
- Common throughout the United States.

How to tell an ocelot from a bobcat

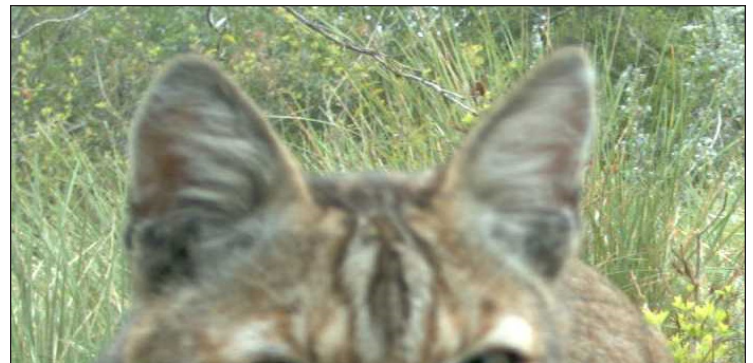
Ocelot



Bobcat



The ocelot coat has a chain-like pattern of dark bordered spots. The bobcat coat has smaller, more muted spots.



The ocelot has rounded ears. The bobcat has pointed ears.



The ocelot has a long, thick, striped/ringed-tail. The bobcat has a shorter tail with a white tip.

What to do if you see a dead ocelot

Immediately contact the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Hilary Swarts, Wildlife Biologist 956-245-9445 or Dispatch 956-784-7520

Provide important information, including

Your name and a phone number where you can be reached; location, time; identifying marks that confirm it was an ocelot and not a bobcat; directions on how to get to the location; and a detailed description of the area. If you can drop a pin or record the location coordinates SAFELY, please do so. If you can take photos SAFELY, please do so.

If you find a dead ocelot

If you can, please stay with the carcass until USFWS staff arrive. If you are not able to stay, please move the carcass so that it is not visible to passersby and USFWS can retrieve, but only if you can do so SAFELY. Please be sure to let USFWS know exactly where to find the carcass so they can retrieve it and collect important information such as internal tags and genetics.