

Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*)



Taxonomy:

Family Felidae. There are 12 subspecies including *Lynx rufus pallescens* which occurs locally.

Description:

Distinguished by its tawny coat color with dark spots, short, black-tipped tail, facial ruffs, and tufted ears with black backs..

Total length: 710-1252 mm; Tail: 95-195 mm; Hind foot: 143-223; Weight: 5.7-31 kg. Males are larger than females.



Distribution:

Occurs from southern Canada south through most of the US and south into central Mexico and the Baja peninsula. Common along the Wasatch Front.

Ecology and diet:

The bobcat is found in all regional habitats from low elevation desert to alpine meadows. They are mainly nocturnal but are often seen during the daytime. They feed on a wide variety of animals ranging from insects, mice and other small vertebrates to deer.

Life History:

Breeding occurs in the winter or spring.

Litters of from 1 to 8 young are born following a gestation of 2 months. Kittens are weaned at about 2 months, but remain with the female until about 7 months. Bobcats reach sexual maturity at 1 to 2 years. Maximum longevity may be as long as 14 years.

References: Larivière & Walton 1997; Zeweloff 1988.