



Ocelots:

Distinguishing characteristics:

- Small cat-like animal with distinct spots
- 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



What to do if you see an ocelot (alive OR dead):

**Immediately contact the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
(956)784-7520 ~ (956)784-7608 ~ (956)748-3607 ~ (956)784-7500
After Hours (956) 874-4664**

Provide important information, including:

Your name and a phone number where you can be reached; location, time and type of sighting (alive or dead); 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 find a dead ocelot:

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

Bobcats



Distinguishing characteristics:

- Light brown to gray coat. Might have spots on coat but they are more subtle
- Short tail
- Tufted ears. More pointed than ocelot with tuft of hair
- Larger than an ocelot
- Found in various habitat types, including forest, coastal, wetlands, as well as near urban areas
- Common throughout the U.S.

How to tell an ocelot from a bobcat:



Typical coat pattern of an ocelot



Typical coat pattern of a bobcat



Rounded ears on ocelot



Pointed and tufted ears on bobcat



Long, ringed tail on ocelot



Short, bobbed tail on bobcat

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