

Our Arroyo Ecosystem



Bobcat *Lynx rufus*

Bobcats are small wild cats that are approximately twice the size of the domesticated cat. The most widespread of wild cats in North America, they are adapted to many different habitats, including deserts, swamps and forests, and even to urban environments.

They get their common name because of their short bobbed tail, while their scientific species name rufus refers to their brown coat coloration. Bobcats are often confused with mountain lion adults or cubs in the Santa Monica Mountains area. Biologists receive many reports of someone having seen a mountain lion adult or cub that is actually a bobcat, even though they look very different and are considerably different in size.

For the most part bobcats are nocturnal, especially in urban areas where they actively try to avoid human contact. Their preferred local food source is rabbits; other popular food items are gophers, ground squirrels, and woodrats.

An excellent source for more information on this resourceful local inhabitant is at Urbancarnivores.com/bobcats.

