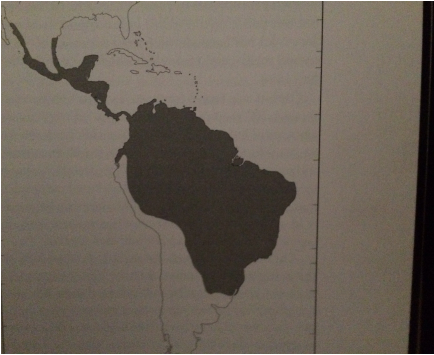


# Ocelot

## *Leopardus pardalis*



Range: south Texas to Argentina  
Size: :65-87 cm(40-64 in)  
: 67-81cm (36-48in)  
Weight : 12-15kg (26.4-33 lbs)  
6-11 kg (13- 24 lbs)  
Tail: 41 cm  
Habitat: scrub rain forest  
Estrus cycle: 46 days  
Estrus length:7- 10 days  
Gestation: 79 - 85 days  
Litter: 1-3 usually 1  
Weaning : 6 weeks  
Sexual maturity: 18-22 months  
Social: solitary and polygynous

## Order: Carnivora Family:Felidae

One of the most secretive of cats the ocelot is very dependent on cover. Although living in a broad range of habitat from the scrub in Texas to the rain forest in South America the ocelot occupy a very narrow range of micro habitats. Due to its secretive lifestyle the ocelot was once one of the least known cat. However technology like the radio collar has helped scientist study a large portion of its behavior especially in Texas.

Males have large ranges up to 20 square miles. These ranges will overlap three to four female home ranges. Ocelots are active hunters, looking for prey as they patrol. Small rivers and streams do not form barriers as ocelots are excellent swimmers.

Ocelots have a beautiful coat that is highly variable. The ground color can range from tan to gray. A combination of blotches, stripes and spots cover the body from head to tail. The ocelot is very similar to the smaller Margay(*L. weidi*) with the Margay having a longer tail and larger eyes. A significant decrease in the population has occurred due to hunting for its fur.

In addition to hunting habitat loss is a major threat. This is especially true in Texas where the chaparral and scrub habitat has been cleared for roads and agriculture. The ocelot is listed as Endangered by the USFW.