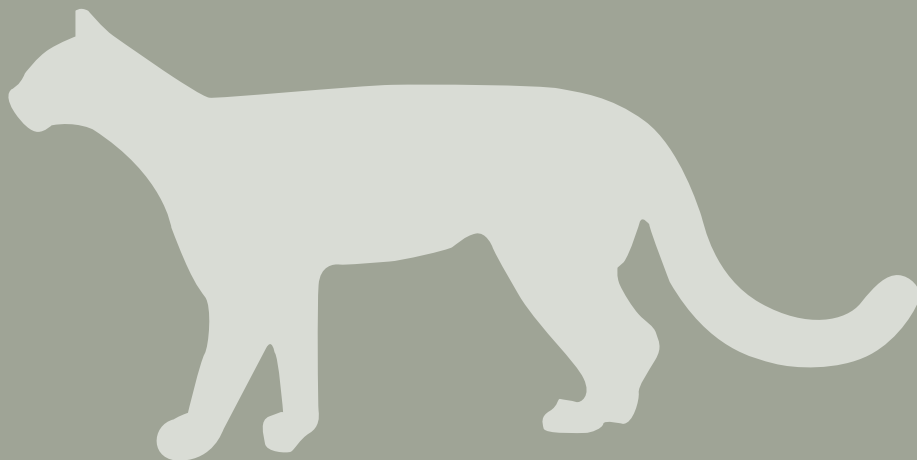


# KNOW YOUR BIG CATS



HEIGHT 24 TO 30 INCHES  
 WEIGHT 110 TO 180 POUNDS  
 NOSE-TO-TAIL LENGTH 5 ½ TO 8 FEET



## COUGAR

*PUMA CONCOLOR*

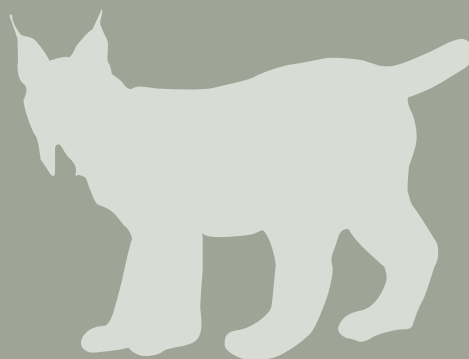
**Cougars**, also called **mountain lions**, are a Western cat that has been sighted as far east as Maine. The last confirmed sighting in Massachusetts was in 1858, but in 2011 one was killed on a Connecticut highway. In March, **tracks were found in Winchester that raised speculation**, and many websites list unconfirmed sightings in New England. Biologists dispute these sightings. **CONSERVATION STATUS** In the East, endangered/threatened under Endangered Species Act

**The dog days of summer are here**, and so are the big-cat days. “The summer months, for many wildlife species, typically coincide with when they’re rearing young,” says Laura Conlee of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. “They also coincide with longer days, so we’re spending a ton of time outside, which only increases the chances you’re going to see something.” Here’s what you might encounter.

— ELIZABETH GEHRMAN

### SO, WHAT’S A FISHER CAT?

Fishers, sometimes called fisher cats, are not cats at all, but **a type of weasel** that is becoming common in Massachusetts, reaching all the way to Cape Cod. One was even spotted in New York City in June. They have been known to attack house cats.



HEIGHT AROUND 24 INCHES  
 WEIGHT 10 TO 25 POUNDS  
 NOSE-TO-TAIL LENGTH 2 ½ TO 3 FEET



## CANADA LYNX

*LYNX CANADENSIS*

**Canada lynx**, once thought to be gone from New England except for far northern Maine, **are more frequently seen** in New Hampshire and Vermont as habitat for the snowshoe hare, their favorite menu item, opens up. **CONSERVATION STATUS** Threatened under Endangered Species Act



HEIGHT 17 TO 23 INCHES  
 WEIGHT 10 TO 28 POUNDS  
 NOSE-TO-TAIL LENGTH 2 TO 3 ½ FEET



## BOBCAT

*LYNX RUFUS*

**Bobcats** are quite common in New England and **live throughout much of the US, but are not often seen**. If you spot one in your yard, it might disappear before you can snap a picture. **CONSERVATION STATUS** Least concern

