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LIVES OF GAME ANIMALS

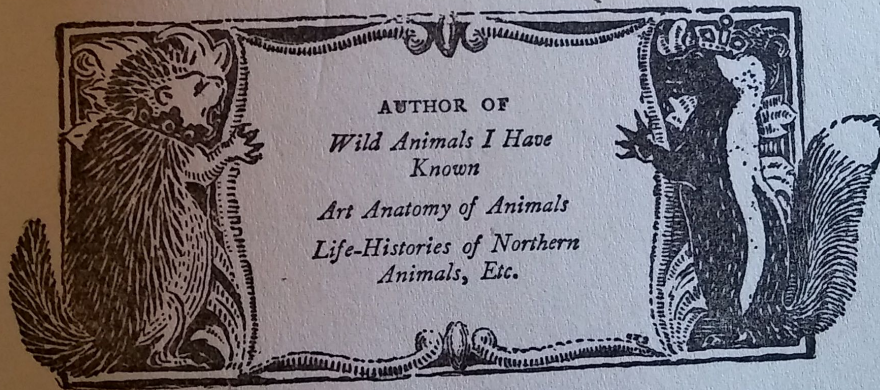
*An Account of those Land Animals in America,
north of the Mexican Border, which are considered
"Game," either because they have held the Attention
of Sportsmen, or received the Protection of Law.*

BY

53-465 P.H.

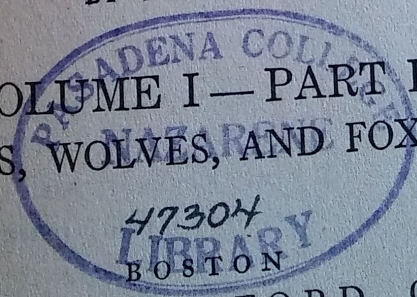
ERNEST THOMPSON SETON

FELLOW NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
MEMBER NAT. INST. ARTS AND LETTERS



WITH 50 MAPS AND 1500 ILLUSTRATIONS
BY THE AUTHOR

VOLUME I — PART I
CATS, WOLVES, AND FOXES



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1953

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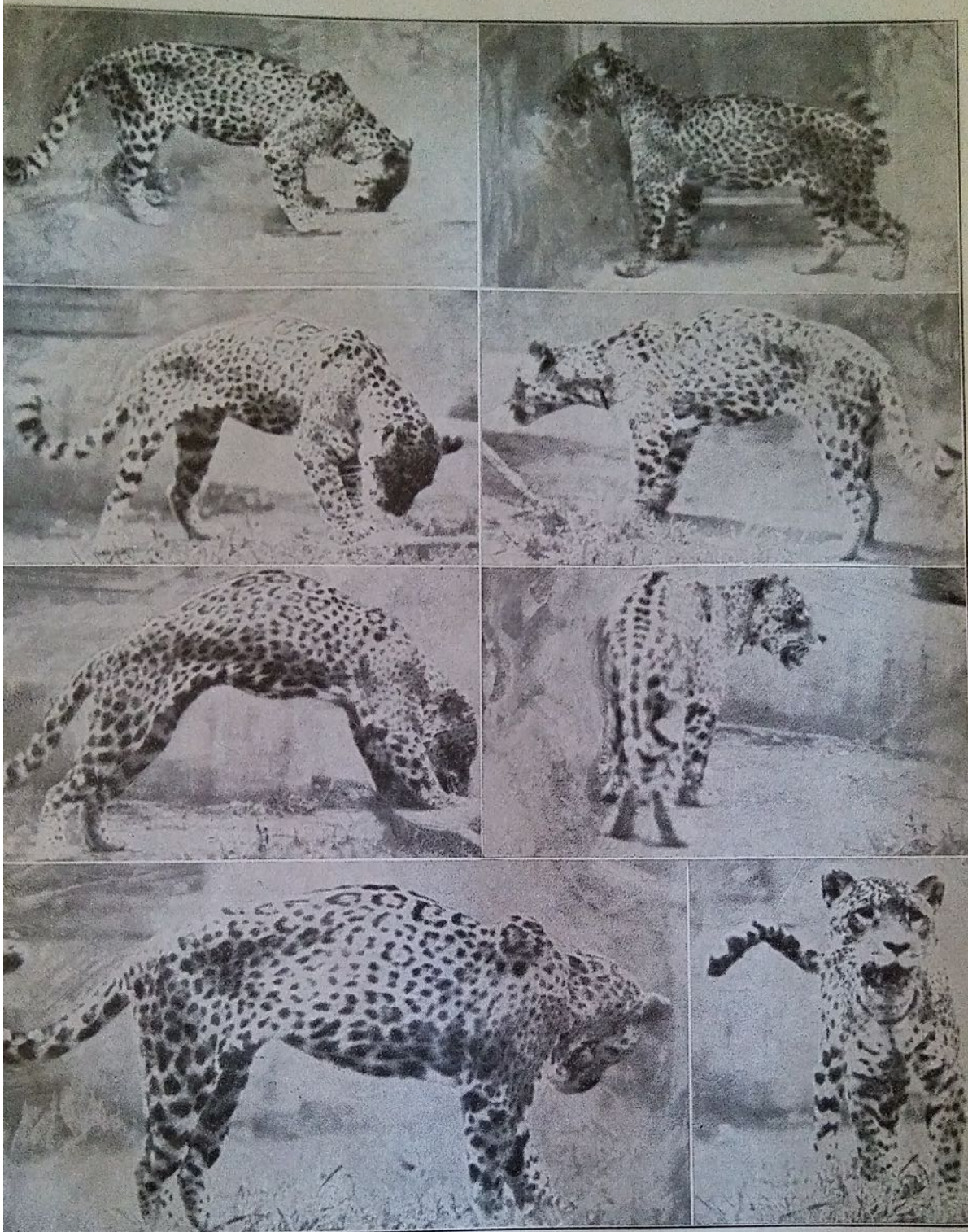
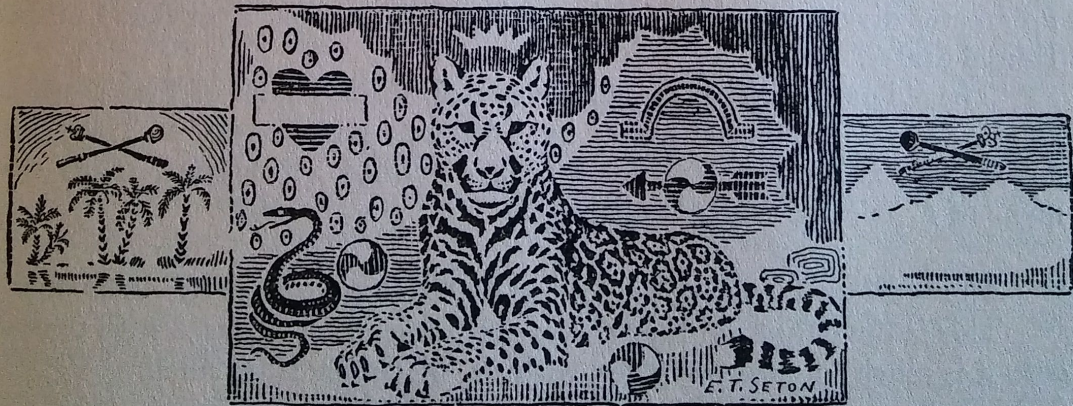


PLATE I.—PHOTOGRAPHS OF FEMALE JAGUAR
National Zoo, Washington, 1923, by E. T. Seton

FAMILY FELIDÆ
LIFE I—THE JAGUAR

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The Spirit of the Jaguar

The Jaguar, American Tiger, American Leopard, Mexican Tiger, Ringtailed Panther, or Spotted King-cat

Felis onça Linnæus

(L. *Felis*, a Cat; *onça*, the Portuguese name of the animal; akin to *ounce*, the Snow-leopard)

Felis onça LINNÆUS, 1766; Syst. Nat., XII, p. 61.

TYPE LOCALITY—America meridionale, *i. e.*, South America

Felis onça hernandesii (GRAY), 1857, Proc. Zool. Soc., p. 278.

TYPE LOCALITY.—Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mex. The form dealt with here is *F. hernandesii*

SPANISH, *Ounça* or *Onza* (Azara).

MEXICAN, *El Tigre*.

APACHE, *Tutinquillé* (Baird, Mex. Bd., p. 7).

KAMMEI TRIBE of Southern California, *Hút-te-kul* (Merriam).

The word "Jaguar" is native American. It appears in the forms *Jaguara* and *Yagouareté*. Also according to Felix de Azara (p. 184), as *Yaguarete*, *Yagua*, *Yaguaeté*, *Yaguapara*, *Yaguara*, and *Guazuara*; also for a kindred but small, plain-coloured species as *Yaguarondi*.

It stands for the largest of the American spotted Cats, whose range is from Patagonia to the Texas Red River and southern Arizona. They vary so greatly in colour, size, and details of anatomy, that many scientists reckon them as several distinct species lumped under the popular name. There are at least several well-marked geographical races, but the huge gray Jaguar of Paraguay and the brightly coloured dwarf forms of Mexico show no greater divergence than do the various White-tailed Deer found in the United States.

The old name *Felis onça* is now confined to the Jaguar of Brazil, which country is what Linnæus meant by "America meridionale." The giant Jaguar of Paraguay has recently been described as separate, under the name of *Felis paraguensis* Hollister.

The Mexican Jaguar was described by Gray in 1857 as *Felis hernandesii*. This is the only form that enters our borders. Compared with typical *onça* it is much smaller and paler, with the black markings small.

¹Brisson: Le Règne Animal, 1756, p. 270.

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A beautiful ♂ taken by J. H. Batty in Escuinapa, Sinaloa (Am. Mus. 25009) Aug. 26, 1901, is as follows:
Total length, 68 in. (1727mm.); tail, $24\frac{1}{2}$ in. (622 mm.); hind-foot, 9 in. (229 mm.).

Baird says that the largest Jaguar skin that he saw was taken at Las Mores above Eagle Pass; it was nearly 5 ft. long without the tail.² An average male is $7\frac{1}{2}$ ft. in total length; an average female $6\frac{1}{2}$ ft.

A large male Jaguar killed by John M. Phillips near Tampico, Mex., Dec. 21, 1910, was measured: Total length, 6 ft. $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. (1993 mm.); tail, 21 in. (533 mm.); height at shoulder, 28 in. (712 mm.); girth of head, 25 in. (635 mm.); of neck, $24\frac{3}{4}$ in. (628 mm.).³

Colour of the above Sinaloan specimen: All the upper and outer parts of a warm buffy yellow or golden tawny, and all the under parts white with black spots everywhere. These spots are small ($\frac{1}{2}$ in. to 1 in. across) where they fall on the tawny, especially on head, shoulder, and forearm, and much bigger where they fall on the white. On the white they are up to 3 or 4 in. long. On the white of the shoulders and chest they unite to form 2 or 3 short crooked bars; and on the back they are so black, solid, and close that they form a chain—almost a dark band. The ear is black behind with a central spot of buff, and dull white inside. The tail is buff above for two thirds; the last third, *i.e.*, the tip, is white, with solid black spots everywhere. Those on the last third, the white portion, are so solid as to form 3 or 4 nearly complete rings. There is a black outline to the mouth, beginning under the whiskers on each side. This soft golden buff common to nearly all royal Cats looks positively luminous as it peeps from under a jet-black spot, and yet it can be exactly matched in the pale soft tan we see on the Coyote's legs, the Cottontail's nape, the Chipmunk's flank, or the Gray-squirrel's paw.

But the strongest feature is the pattern of broken rings or rosettes of black along the sides, each enclosing a slightly deeper area of buff on which are one or two black dots. Normally these central dots are not found in the Leopard, and they are partly or almost wholly absent from the giant Gray Jaguar.

There is, however, no part of the above Jaguar description that does not apply, word for word, to African Leopard skins, now before me. The tangible differences are, the central dots on the side rosettes, the bars on the chest, and the short tail of the Jaguar. Nevertheless, these colour features are not absolute, for one of the Congo Leopards has a few central dots on the side rosettes and the beginning of bars on the chest.

²Mamm. Mex., Bd., p. 8.

³In the Open, Pittsburgh, March, 1912, p. 12.

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But the Leopard is 7 ft. long (2134 mm.), has a tail $36\frac{1}{4}$ in. (921 mm.), hind-foot, $10\frac{1}{2}$ in. (267 mm.); that is, its tail is a foot longer than that of the big Jaguar, which was probably twice its weight.

It is a remarkable fact that the tail of any one of the Cats, Foxes, Rabbits, or Deer, will distinguish the species more readily and certainly than any other external feature.

Young: Description of the colour is given in the section on "Young."

Melano, that is sooty or nearly black specimens of Jaguar, are often found. They are merely freaks. The spots show still blacker on the dark ground. The Mexicans call them *Tigre negro*.

Albinos, according to Humboldt, have been seen in Paraguay; in these "beautiful" specimens, the spots are so pale as scarcely to show on the white ground.⁴

Weight. The Jaguar is the largest of the American Cats; much heavier than the Cougar or even the Old-world Leopard.

John M. Phillip's big male, cited above, weighed 176 lbs., though in poor condition. George K. Cherrie considers that an average male Brazilian Jaguar will weigh 250 lbs., and a very large one 300 lbs.; an average Brazilian female about 200 lbs.

In Mexico they are much smaller.

Dan J. Singer, the well-known sportsman, gives the ordinary weight of Guiana specimens at 160 or 200 lbs.

Roosevelt says of his Jaguar that it was heavier than the 227-lb. Cougar he killed in Colorado and as heavy as an adult African Lioness.⁵

Humboldt speaks of a Jaguar, "the largest he ever met," whose length "surpassed that of any Bengal Tiger I had ever seen in the Museums of Europe." (This was near Cano de la Tigrera, near San Fernando de Apure, in the Orinoco country.)⁶

The Paraguay Jaguar, however, must be at least twice as heavy as the Mexican species, for it has the size and powers of a Tigress. The gigantic specimen brought by Roosevelt from Corumba, Brazil (Am. Mus. 36950), measured on the dry skin, is $98\frac{1}{2}$ in. in total length, of which the tail is $26\frac{1}{2}$ in.; the hind-foot is $11\frac{1}{2}$ in. In colour this specimen is peculiar, its ground colour being of a pale sandy, and the central black dots of the rosettes are almost wholly absent.

In the Museum of the Jardin des Plantes, Paris, is a Jaguar skeleton that is as large as that of an ordinary Tiger. The skull is $13\frac{1}{2}$ in. in length

⁴Pers. Narr., II, p. 267.

⁵Braz. Wild., p. 81.

⁶Pers. Narr., I, p. 189, and II, p. 157.

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from the upper alveolar ridges to the point of the occipital crest; from snout to sacrum is 64 in., and the height at the shoulder $33\frac{1}{2}$ in. This last can, of course, be varied by the play of the bones, can indeed be unfairly increased, but the body length cannot; it must have been at least as long as given. This specimen then was as large as an ordinary Tiger and must have weighed over 300 lbs.

RACES

Two forms of *hernandesii* have been recognized:

hernandesii Gray, the typical form as above, T. l., Mazatlan, Mex.
goldmani Mearns, similar but of deeper colour and larger black markings. T. l. Yohaltun, Campeche, Mex.

RANGE, WITH MAP

The Jaguar, originally described by Linnæus, from South America, is now found to have a very wide dispersal in Central and North America. Its southern limit is given by Mivart⁷ at 40° So. lat., that is, the north border of Patagonia.

It is found generally in South America, even west of the Andes in all wooded sections; in Central America and Mexico up to the south boundary of the United States, beyond which it is accidental now, except in Texas and Arizona.

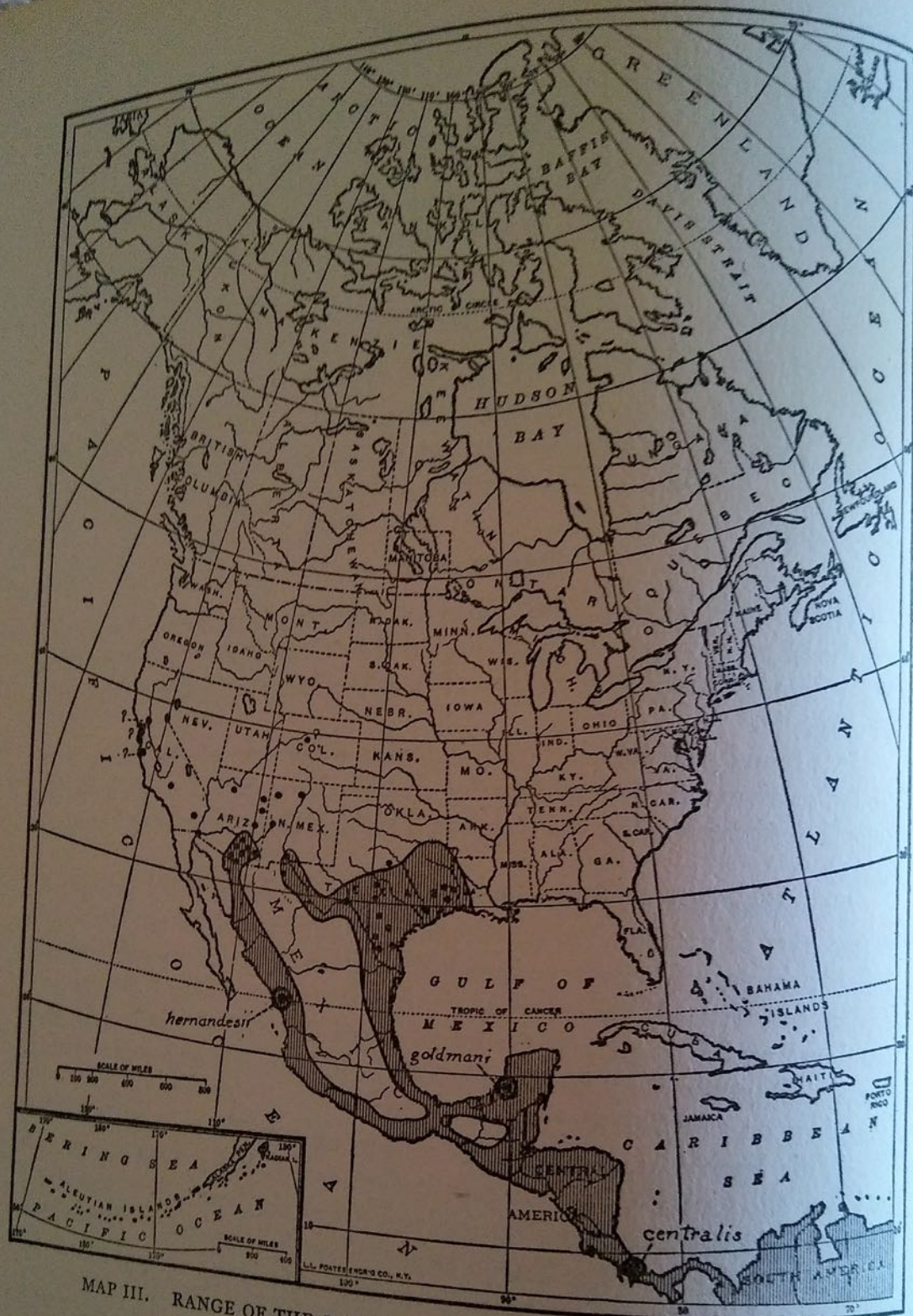
According to S. F. Baird in 1859: "This species is found through the greater part of eastern Texas, extending as far as Red River. It is quite probable that specimens have been killed within the limits of Louisiana, as at present constituted. Southward it ranges through Brazil (where it is abundant) and Paraguay as far south as the Rio Negro"⁸; and on the same page Baird quotes the following from C. B. R. Kennerly who was one of the naturalists on the Boundary Expedition:

"This large Cat, so common in southwestern Texas, especially along the lower Rio Grande, is rarely seen so far north as El Paso del Norte. The only individual observed by our party west of the latter place was seen in the Sierra Madre, near the Guadalupe Canyon [Chihuahua.] However, we were assured by many persons of Santa Cruz that it was very common near that village, in the valley of the river of the same name."

On the map I have indicated all the definite records in the United States. It is now nearly extinct as a resident within our limits.

⁷The Cat, 1881, p. 398.

⁸Mamm. Mex. Bd., p. 7.



MAP III. RANGE OF THE JAGUAR IN NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

By E. T. Seton, with assistance of the Biological Survey, 1923

All available records in the United States are spotted on the map and discussed in the text. The Colorado record and the three about San Francisco are very doubtful. In Texas the species is probably extinct, except along the Rio Grande.

RECORDS

In California

The following three records for the San Francisco region are not accepted by the Biological Survey, who maintain that they are too vague. They may have referred to Mexico, or to young Cougars in the spotted coat.

(?) G. H. Von Langsdorff mentions it thus, among the wild animals found about the settlement of San Francisco: "The American Lion, *Felis concolor*, the American Tiger, *Felis onça*, Stags, Roes, Wolves, Foxes, Bears, and Polecats, *Viverra putorius*, are very common here; the latter is called by the Spaniards *Sorrillo*."⁹

(?) Beechey says it is a native of the wooded country between San Francisco and Monterey and adds the helpful details that "the Lion (*Felis concolor*?) and the Tiger (*Felis onça*) are natives of these woods, but we never saw them; the inhabitants say they are small, and that the Lion is less than the Tiger but more powerful. A large species of Mountain Cat (*Gato del Monte*) is common."¹⁰

(?) Pierre Charles de Saint-Amant, who travelled in California and Oregon during 1851-52, describes the hunting and killing of a Mountain Lion, Puma, or Cougar (*Felis puma*) which his party encountered near San Francisco Bay, and the feast which all enjoyed of its flesh,¹¹ then adds: "There is also in California the American Tiger, or Jaguar. It inhabits the back country and I never had the luck to meet it. It is reckoned more formidable than the Cougar, like it, readily climbs trees. A French doctor that I knew encountered one in the environs of Presidio; it tried to kill his Dog. The Jaguar can carry off a Horse or an Ox a very long way. It is chiefly during the night that it seeks its prey and makes its victims."¹²

Merriam writes concerning the Jaguar in California: "An old chief of the Kammei tribe (called by the Spanish 'Diegenos') told me that in the Cuyamaca Mountain region in San Diego County, the 'Tiger,' while rare, was

⁹Voy. and Trav., II, p. 213.

¹⁰Narr., II, p. 403.

¹¹Voy. en Cal., pp. 534-6.

¹²As above, p. 537.

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well known to the old Indians who call it the 'Big-spotted Lion,' Hut'-te-kul."¹³

James O. Pattie, who made the overland trip in 1824-30, relates that on Dec. 12, 1829, he killed a Jaguar on an island of the Colorado River below its junction with the Helay [Gila]. After referring to Deer, Foxes, Wild-cats, Panthers, etc., with which he was evidently familiar, he says: "We killed some wild geese and pelicans, and likewise an animal not unlike the African Leopard, which came into our camp, while we were at work upon the canoe. It was the first we had ever seen."¹⁴

But the latest and most convincing of these Californian records is by Grizzly Adams (J. C. Adams), who, in the summer of 1855, discovered a family of Jaguars, male, female, and their young, in a rocky cavern on the south side of Tejon Pass in the Tehachapi Mountains, facing eastward over the Mohave Desert. He did not secure specimens, but all authorities who have read his record accept it as safe. His account is fully set forth in the section on "Habits."

In Arizona

Prof. Charles T. Vorhies writes me as follows: "I. E. Roberts of Tucson saw a Jaguar cross the Silver Bell highway about 3 miles northwest of the city one evening in September, 1920. Exact date could not be supplied, although I interviewed Mr. Roberts in October. The animal crossed the road ahead of the automobile in which the observer was riding, and stopped at a distance of only about 50 yards, faced about and stood watching the car. As this was an hour before sundown, and the observer reported a perfectly clear view of the animal, describing it as spotted, etc., and even observed the catlike switching of the tail, there seems no chance for error. Mr. Roberts personally related the incidents to me.

"On the occasion of a visit to the Chiricahua Mountains, in 1918, I was shown a beautiful Jaguar skin in the possession of Mr. E. J. Hands, who told me of shooting it after a chase ending with the cornering of the animal in a small cave. Later, in 1921, I wrote to Mr. Percy Hands, a brother, whose address I knew, for details and date of the killing of this specimen. He wrote me as follows concerning the case: 'It had been killing Cattle and Horses at various places on the west side of the range for some time, but as it had not been seen, the killings were attributed to a Lion. Its tracks were first seen on the east side of the range . . . on January 6, 1912, by myself. A calf was killed, also a cow, and partly eaten on Bonita. The stock

¹³ Journ. Mamm., Nov., 1919, p. 40.

¹⁴ Pattie's Personal Narrative, 1905 edition, p. 194.

killed, I believe, were owned by Stafford who had a small ranch on Bonita. Tommy Stafford and others set a Bear trap at the kill and trapped the Jaguar. They tracked it for some distance but could not follow it and sent for my brother Edward J. to help them. . . . About 10 o'clock at night John (E. J.) came to camp. He had kept the trail for a considerable distance, then lost it, and decided to come for us and make a new start early in the morning. Just at dusk he ran on to the trail again on Bonita Peak. We started early, quickly picked up the trail, and after about an hour's trailing I located the Jaguar in a kind of cave worn by the elements in the soft rock. I tracked him in, but as I could not see his track leaving, I set my rifle against the rock and got on my hands and knees and crawled in about 3 or 4 feet to see. He was lying down tired out from dragging the heavy trap—19 pounds, I believe it was. I woke him, and heard the chain and trap rattle about 4 feet from me in the dark and I need not tell you what I did next. When outside I called to John and Frank. They came up, John and I took each a side and Frank kneeled down looking in. The Jaguar lowered his head to look out and Frank shot him through the head and killed him. The date was Jan. 12, 1912.'

"Another Jaguar was trapped and shot by a party in the Chiricahuas several years before. I was not there at the time, and names and dates are too hazy to be of value.

"Besides the above records and reports, I can only say that two Jaguars have been taken in the Santa Rita Mountains since I have been more or less acquainted with that country. These were taken by government trappers, and the only way to get certain dates would be through Musgrave. However, my own recollection . . . is that the first one was taken about 5 years ago, which would make it the winter of '17-'18; and the second about 3 years ago, or the winter of '19-'20. Mr. Nicholson also has told me of an experience of several years ago in this range, in which some Mexican miners working night shift in a mine became fearful of going over a certain ridge to camp at 3 A. M. They claimed some large animal appeared each night and frightened them. He accompanied them finally and heard the animal scream, and saw it outlined against the sky, but could see no colour, owing to the darkness. He fired at it but missed, and it was not seen again. He believes it to have been a Jaguar.

"A good many years ago, a Jaguar was killed in the Baboquivari Mountains, and one at least has been killed in the Santa Catalinas. Concerning these I have no dates. Both these were taken before I came here in 1915. I am inclined to think that the Santa Catalina record was about 1912.

"I have given you in the above *everything* I know of Jaguars in south-

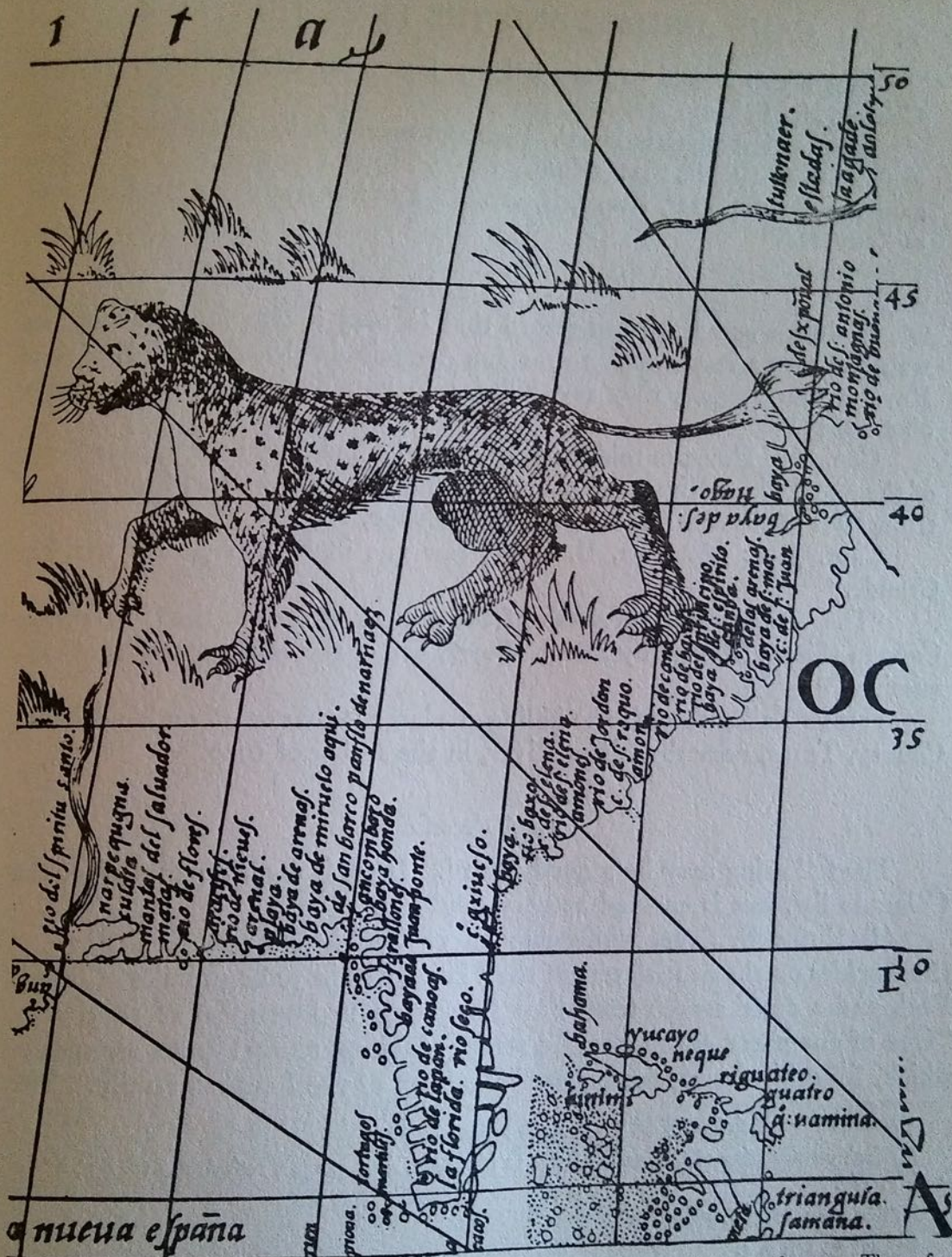


PLATE II—Earliest known drawing of Jaguar, unless meant for Cougar in spotted coat. The tufted tail and the locality point to Cougar. This appears on Sebastian Cabot's Map of America, 1544. The portrait is spread over Pennsylvania and the Ohio Valley. (From the original in New York Public Library.)

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ern Arizona, though much of it is of little value except to show that they have not been so rare as might have been supposed.

"I might only add as a matter of interest in general, that a High School boy living northwest of Tucson reported to his principal, whom I knew personally, that tracks of Mountain Lion and Bear were not uncommonly to be seen in the near neighbourhood of his father's ranch, always going one way or the other in the line connecting the west end of the Santa Catalinas and the Tucson Mountains. They believed that migrations between the ranges along this route often occurred. The live Jaguar seen in 1920 must have been about on this route, and it was going toward the Catalinas."¹⁵

E. A. Goldman sends me the following additional Arizona record. A Jaguar was "killed by J. H. Durham at his cattle ranch in the Tortolita Mountains, about 30 miles northwest of Tucson in 1913. I saw the skin of this animal. The Jaguar seems to cross the Mexican line much more frequently than the Ocelot."

Nelson writes in 1918: "Several have been killed within our borders during the last 10 years, including one not far from the tourist hotel at the Grand Canyon of Arizona."¹⁶

The *Holbrook Observer* of Jan. 20, 1920, records that a large Jaguar was killed at Rincon Mountain, Ariz., "on Saturday" by Stanley R. Graham and party, of Chicago.

In 1922, Dr. Harry Garcelon of Victorville, Calif., told me that in 1907, when in Arizona, he was shown the skin of a Jaguar that had recently been killed on the Mogollon Mountains near Fort Apache. He says Jaguars are still found in the box canyon of the Rio Grande and in Donna Ana County, N. M.

In New Mexico

The extraordinary case of the murderous Jaguar of Santa Fe in 1825, is fully set forth later. This happens to be the northmost positive record, as well as the most detailed and amazing story of a Jaguar's ferocious exploits.

Baird gives it in good faith, and it seems to be a reliable New Mexico record. The question has been raised as to whether the Santa Fe mentioned was not some other place, maybe in South America on some other Rio Grande, as the account pictures a town on a broad river which is dotted with wooded islands. The results of my investigations are given in the section on "Attacks on Mankind."

¹⁵Letter, Feb. 22, 1923.

¹⁶W. A. N. A., p. 413.

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Nat Straw is said to have killed a Jaguar on Taylor Greek, Socorro County, N. M., May, 1900.¹⁷
The earliest historic North American record is by Coronado in 1540, as follows: At Cibola, that is Zuni, "Bears, Tigers, Lions, etc. . . . For game, they have Deer, Leopards, etc."¹⁸ Purchas translates the Leopards as "ounces."¹⁹

In Texas

Audubon and Bachman record that in 1845 it was found about the watering places in the region near San Antonio de Bexar. Col. [John C.] Hays of the Rangers, they say, killed 4 Jaguars during his stay in Texas about 1845.²⁰

Gen. Sam Houston told Bachman that he had found the Jaguar "east of the San Jacinto River and abundantly on the head waters of the eastern tributaries of the Rio Grande, the Guadalupe, etc."²¹

Capt. J. P. McCown, U. S. A., saw one in his camp near the Rio Grande.²²

"The westernmost specimen of the genus was seen in the Guadalupe Canyon (Sierra Madre) by Mr. J. Weyss, one of the assistants of this Commission."²³

Vernon Bailey records the killing of a large Jaguar near London, Kimble County, Texas, near the Llano River, in the spring of 1910.²⁴

In Colorado

The following may be a good record. If so, it is a new animal for the Colorado list, but is entered as very doubtful.

(?) Rufus B. Sage, while camped on Soublet's Creek at the base of the Rockies on the headwaters of the Platte, within 30 or 40 miles of Long's Peak and 2 days' march from Fort Lancaster, in December of 1843, says: "One of our party encountered a strange looking animal in his excursions, which, from his description, must have been of the Leopard family. This

¹⁷ Barber: Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XV, 1902, p. 192.

¹⁸ Winship translation of Coronado's letter to Mendoza, Aug. 3, 1540, 14th Ann. Rep. Bur. Ethno-
pt. I, p. 560.

¹⁹ Pilgrimage, 1613, p. 966.

²⁰ Q. N. A., III, p. 5.

²¹ As above, p. 6.

²² As above.

²³ Mamm. Mex. Bd., p. 7.

²⁴ Forest & Stream, Jan. 7, 1911, p. 11.

circumstance is the more remarkable as Leopards are rarely found except in southern latitudes. However, they are not unfrequently met in some parts of the Comanche country, and their skins furnish to the natives a favourite material for arrow cases."²⁵

As Sage was quite familiar with Panthers and Bobcats, this may have been a Jaguar, or, though much less likely, an Ocelot.

As will be noted more fully later on, the Jaguar is excessively given to travel. It is a far roamer, going even hundreds of miles from its native headquarters. This accounts for most of the Jaguar appearances in the United States, and also contains promise of more Jaguar records in the future.

²⁵ Rocky Mountain Life, p. 347.

NUMBERS

In South America the Jaguar has always been plentiful. Humboldt says: "These animals are very frequent in the tracts situated between the Cerro Maraguaca, the Unturan, and the banks of the Pamoni."²⁶ Then adds on the same page: "This frequency of large Jaguars is somewhat remarkable in a country destitute of Cattle. The Tigers of the upper Orinoco are far less bountifully supplied with prey than those of the Pampas of Buenos Aires and the Llanos of Caracas, which are covered with herds of Cattle. More than 4000 Jaguars are killed annually in the Spanish colonies, several of them equalling the mean size of the royal Tiger, of Asia! Two thousand skins of Jaguars were formerly exported annually from Buenos Ayres alone."

This is all along the line of well-known information, but most are surprised to learn that in southwest Texas, according to Kennerly, it was common in 1859²⁷ and, as already noted, according to Gen. Sam Houston, abundant on the Rio Grande and Guadalupe, in the '40's.²⁸

Outside of this region it was always a straggler, and at the present time it is little more than a rare fugitive inside this region. For there is no doubt that the species is all but exterminated in the United States, and any individual discovered to-day is most likely a wanderer from the wilder regions south of our border.

HAUNTS

The Jaguar is an animal of the well-watered dense forests in the tropical or subtropical parts of the Western World; and its distribution within these limits depends on the local food supply and proximity of the region to its centre of abundance. Thus, it might have been perfectly at home in Florida with its wet forests and wealth of Deer and turkeys, but evidently the intervening regions were possessed of elements or influences that had the force of an impassable barrier to the Jaguar kind. There was plenty of food and some suitable forest in the southern parts of New Mexico; and being contiguous to its Mexican range, there were always stray pioneer Jaguars venturing out to possess these new lands. But the climate probably

²⁶Pers. Narr., II, p. 470.

²⁷Mamm. Mex. Bd., p. 7.

²⁸Q. N. A., III, p. 6.

was too severe; for the species can be considered only accidental in the United States except in the low forests of southern Texas and the southeast corner of Arizona, where heat, timberland, and abundance of game appear to have given it a permanent footing.

Compared with the Cougar, it is less of a mountain and more of a forest animal. The Cougar loves the half-open woods, varied with broken ledges, the haunts of Muledeer and Mountain Sheep; the Jaguar prefers the impenetrable thickets along river bottoms where the Whitetail Deer and smaller game find harbour. Possibly it is not straining a point if we claim that the Jaguar's spotted coat reflects this fact, for it looks like broken sunlight falling through foliage on a log or bump, while the Cougar living in more open places, and therefore more often seen by other wild things, is coloured rather to be like the Deer it preys on, and is easily mistaken for it.

TREE-CLIMBING HABITS

The Jaguar and the Cougar are called "the Tiger and Lion of America," and it is interesting to note that the two King-cats of the Old World are ground animals and never climb; whereas our own two species take to the trees on occasion, and spend a part of their time aloft, hunting, sleeping, or loafing. According to many authorities, they readily climb and travel about in the roof trees of the forest whenever it may serve their passing whim to do so. But it is well to remember that tree-climbing is largely a question of weight. The 400-pound Lion and Tiger and the 800-pound Grizzly never climb. Their lesser cousins, the Jaguar, the Cougar, and the Blackbear, climb whenever it suits their purpose. But it is the smaller kinds, like Squirrels and Monkeys, that really live in the treetops.

THE VOICE OF THE KING-CAT

Like most of the Cat tribe, especially the larger ones, the Jaguar is very noisy at times, and has a great variety of sounds for use as expression. Humboldt's narrative refers continually to the cries of the Jaguar in the jungle at night.

Grizzly Adams heard it many times uttering a roar which "was loud but clear, short but piercing, differing from any roar I had ever heard."²⁹

According to Azara, the Jaguar "utters loud cries by night, especially in the love season, in a very deep and hoarse tone, *Pu, pu, pu*, very frequently repeated."³⁰

John M. Phillips likens the call of the Jaguar to a hoarse cough like

²⁹ Adv. J. C. Adams, p. 357.

³⁰ Nat. Hist. Para. p. 186.

"uh, uh, uh, uh," repeated a dozen or more times, but maintains that it never utters a roar at all resembling that of a Lion.

So also George K. Cherrie tells me that the sound of the Jaguar is never a roar of the Lion type. It is, nevertheless, the most fearful sound he ever heard in the wilds. Beginning with short, guttural "uh, uh, uh's," it increases them in rapidity and volume, till, after a dozen repetitions, the final "uh's" are short roars of appalling power and effect.

All of these descriptions agree with and are endorsed by W. H. Blackburne's observations in the Washington Zoo.

MATING AND YOUNG

From the few facts at hand it is evident that in North America the Jaguar love season is January and that the species is monogamous.

Observations on the captives in the Berlin Zoo showed that gestation continued in various cases for 99, 101, 105, 99, 100 and 101 days; $3\frac{1}{3}$ months, or 100 days being normal.³¹

In Mexico—and of course within our limits when it does occur—the young are born in April or May; for it is part of Nature's plan to have them arrive at the pleasantest time of the year, or at least so that they will know nothing of hardship until they are strong enough to stand it.

In equatorial America, it is arranged otherwise. Since there is no cold weather to fear, the younging-time varies greatly.

The species bring forth 2 to 4 cubs at a birth. Their fur is somewhat like that of the parents, but much longer, and woollier in texture.

A young one, three-quarters grown, from Paraguay (Am. Mus. 36654), is more heavily spotted than the adult. Many of the brown spots on the lower back have an unbroken outline of black, as well as two inner dots. The general scheme is much like that of the Ocelot; indeed, it might pass for a brownish Ocelot but for the total absence of the long stripes on the neck, this part being heavily spotted as in the adult.

When the cubs are a month or 6 weeks old, according to the balance of opinion, they are about as big as a common Cat and begin to follow their parents about. As the mother is, in power at least, a common Cat multiplied some 30 diameters, one can readily believe that there is not a creature in the woods that at this time dare approach the young to do them harm. Indeed, there is not a living thing on earth that she would not face and fight to a finish if it seemed necessary for their protection.

So far as can be ascertained, the male is a permanent member of the family, a loyal husband and father, helping with all his noble powers to feed,

³¹Dr. O. von Heinroth, Zoöl. Beobachter, XLIX Jahrgang, Frankfurt a. M., 1908, p. 16.

protect, and train his offspring. Most of the light we have on their family life is from Grizzly Adams's account as given later.

At the end of a year, according to Dan J. Singer, they shift for themselves. They breed at three years and may live to be 20.³²

HOME-LIFE

As a marvellously interesting record, as well as a strong picture of this creature's home-life, I give in full Grizzly Adams's adventures with a California Jaguar.

In the summer of 1855, accompanied only by his dog Rambler and his 2 pet Grizzlies, Lady Washington and Ben Franklin, he was on a hunting trip in the Tehachapi Mountains, and had made his camp on the south side of the Tejon Pass, on the great slope that faces eastward over the Mohave Desert. I give the rest in his own words:

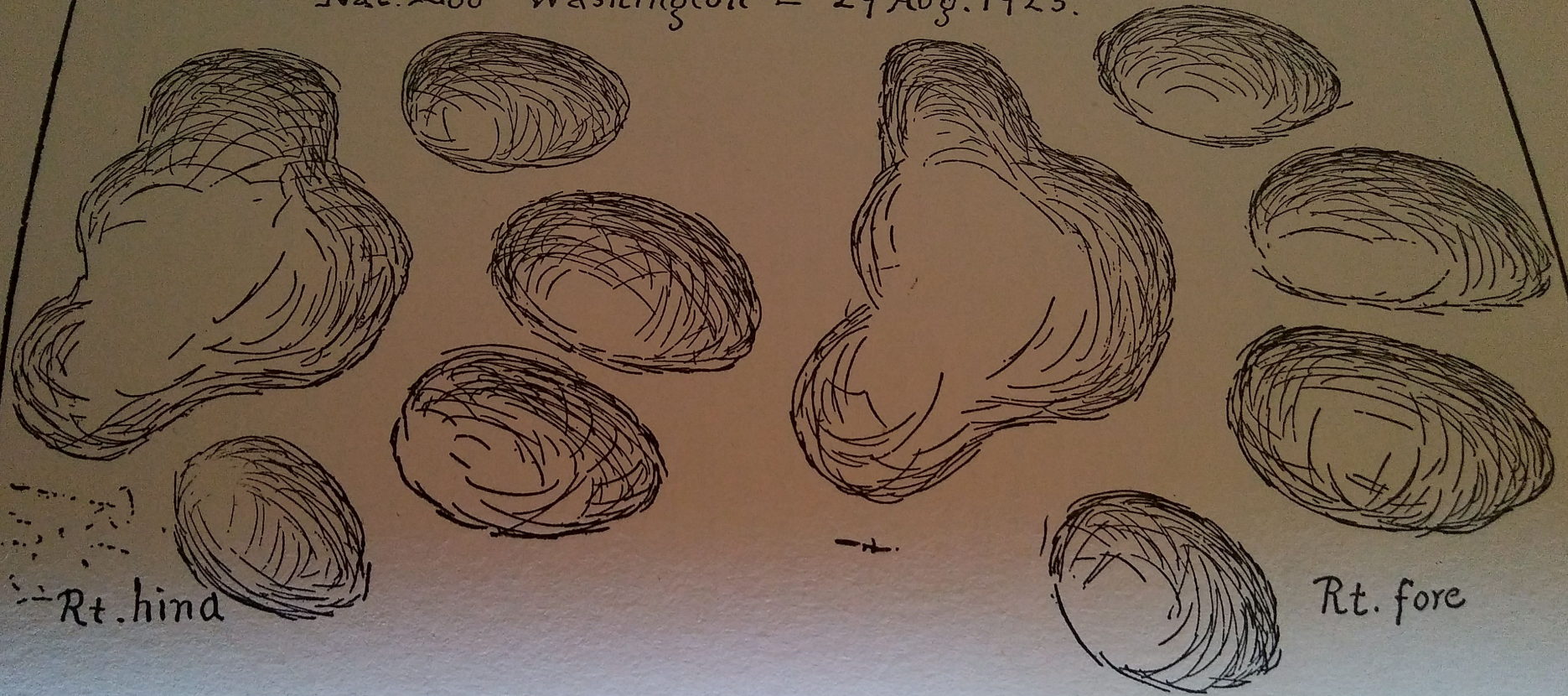
"I was suddenly aroused at midnight by a fearful snuffing and snorting among my animals; but what to make of the noise I knew not, except that there was danger at hand. It was starlight, but too dark to see; and raising myself in my blankets and seizing my rifle, I listened with all attention. In a short time, I distinctly heard the lapping of water at the spring, which was about 50 yards distant; and, looking in that direction, beheld 2 spots, like balls of fire, glaring at me. I expected an encounter and prepared myself for it; but the stranger beast unexpectedly, after uttering a low growl, turned and leisurely retreated, as if he did not deign to attack, much less to fear me. I could see that he was of large size—a majestic animal of the Lion genus; but this was all I could see."³³

"My curiosity, as well as my love of adventure, was so much excited by the sight of the magnificent but unknown beast, that during the remainder of the night I could think of nothing else. My imagination presented me with the picture of an animal whose capture would exceed in interest all the adventures of my previous days; and no sooner was it light in the morning than I started out with Ben and Rambler to follow the track and reconnoitre the country. The trail led us 4 or 5 miles over a rough country, and at last into a gorge—one of the roughest and craggiest places man's eyes ever beheld. The only way I could work through it was by crawling, clambering, climbing, and pulling myself from cliff to cliff, and thus getting along by slow degrees. In among the huge rocks which were scattered all over the country there was here and there a space of soft earth where the prints of the animal's feet were plainly to be seen; and it was by

³²Big Game Fields, pp. 116-17.

³³Adv. J. C. Adams, pp. 351-2.

Nat. Zoo Washington - 29 Aug. 1923.



Rt. hind

Rt. fore

Plate III. Tracks of a small female
Jaguar - life-size. ---
by E.T. Seton. 1923.

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these marks that I pursued the trail into the gorge. Here the marks were better defined; and after following them across the gorge up to the face of a ledge of rocks, I came to a cave, which there was no difficulty in recognizing as the den of the animal.

"The cave was elevated on one side of the cliff, so that a man could with difficulty reach it. In its mouth, and scattered below it, were multitudes of bones and skeletons of various kinds of animals, and among others, of Mountain Sheep, making the place look like the yard of a slaughter house. I endeavoured to reach the cave for the purpose of looking into it, but was unable to do so, and therefore withdrew to consider plans of operations, determined as I was to leave no stone unturned in my efforts to secure the unknown but evidently ferocious animal which made it his haunt. Considering the matter in every point of view, I resolved at last to build a trap on the trail, near the den; but, there being no trees in the neighbourhood, before proceeding further I had to go out and search where I could find timber.

"The country in the vicinity was the roughest that can well be conceived; and it was only with great labour that I was enabled to climb the side of the gorge and pass along the ridge which separated it from another of much the same character."³⁴

Having brought timber with great difficulty, he worked all day at his trap, then "went to sleep, but in the course of the night was aroused by a roar, which I supposed to be that of the beast which I was hunting; it was loud but clear, short but piercing, different from any roar I had ever heard; and, as a new fact in regard to the beast, it added to my wonder, for I had already come to the conclusion that the animal was of a different species from any I had ever known. The track was peculiarly large and firm, indicating an animal of great strength and noble bearing."³⁵

"There was at this time a new moon, and the gorge, a doleful place even in daylight, was darker than I liked; nevertheless, I could see if any animal passed the trail, and this would be some satisfaction. I therefore watched the twilight pass over the mountains, and saw it grow dusky and at length dark when, overpowered by the fatigues of the day, I curled down by the side of Ben and fell into a slumber. Barely were my eyes closed, however, when a roar roused me and I started up and strained my eyes along the trail from the den to the trap, but could see nothing. In a few minutes the roar was repeated, but in an apparently subdued tone; and directing my eyes in the direction from which it proceeded, I saw a spotted

³⁴Adv. J. C. Adams, pp. 353-4-5.

³⁵As above, p. 357.

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animal, resembling a Tiger in size and form, with 2 young ones. The view was very indistinct, but I could see that the animal was crawling out of the rocks. She went ahead for a little distance, then turned around and appeared to call the little ones, which followed, playing like kittens. My first thought was to kill her and catch the young, and I have often regretted since that I did not take the risks and fire; but I considered that the trap which we had built would be both a safer and more certain method to secure them.

"Remaining silent, therefore, I watched the beasts disappear in the darkness, and neither saw nor heard anything more of them till near morning, when I was aroused by the same masculine roar, which I had heard 2 or 3 nights before. I recognized it immediately, and strained my eyes to see the possessor of that lordly voice. It was, however, so dark that I could not see, though I distinctly heard the tramp of the beast; and it seemed that he was accompanied by his consort and the young ones, which I had seen in the evening. It was evident to me that they had passed near the trap, but they had not entered it; and on examining the tracks in the daytime, I found that they had passed around it.

"Seeing thus that the trap had been passed by, I determined to dig a pit with a falling door; and, accordingly, going to work, in the course of a few days we completed such a trap, 8 feet long, 6 feet broad, and 10 feet deep; and fixed a door over it, swung upon an axle in such a manner as to turn and drop any animal that trod upon it into the pit. The door was covered over with dirt, grass, and leaves in such a manner as to resemble the ground about it, so that I supposed it would be impossible for an animal to detect the deception. I then hung a piece of raw mutton over the door, and retired to my place of concealment, to watch during the night as usual.

"Soon after dark the male animal again made his appearance. As he came to the mouth of the den, he looked around and snuffed the air, and then leaped down, and going a few yards placed his paws upon a rock, and stretched himself, yawning at the same time as if he were waking up out of a sleep. In a few minutes afterward, the female appeared, and approaching, lapped his brawny neck. Pleased with this conjugal attention, the male threw himself upon the ground, and after rolling for a few minutes, stood up, shook himself, and then, with a proud step, trod away toward the traps; and his consort followed him. Their manner toward each other induced the reflection in my mind that nature works much the same in all species of animals; for, even among human beings, I had rarely seen a more expressive indication of conjugal love than was exhibited here.

"The male beast, as nearly as I could see, was twice as large as the

ordinary Cougar, and appeared to be covered with dark round spots of great richness and beauty. His mien was erect and stately, and so majestic and proud in bearing, that it was with pleasure I contemplated him. As he approached the pit, my heart fluttered; now, thought I, is the time of my success; but, alas, for my hopes! the animals, when they reached the place, evidently suspected something wrong; and, after smelling about suspiciously, made a circuit and passed on. They next stopped at the trap which they appeared to examine attentively; they even entered it, and I strained my eyes to see the doors fall; but, no, alas, for my hopes again! the animals came out and went off, without disturbing the bait, and soon disappeared over the ridge. I watched the remainder of the night but neither saw nor heard anything more of the beasts.

“For several weeks after this time I continued making all endeavours to trap these animals. I caught live bait and tried to inveigle them with the choicest morsels, but all in vain. On several occasions, subsequent to those mentioned, I obtained a sight of the animals, but only a passing one; and at last, confident that it would be impossible to trap them, I determined on the first opportunity to shoot. The male I never afterward saw; but the female and her cubs I unexpectedly came across one day in a gorge far removed from the one containing the den. Ben and Rambler were with me at the time; and, as I fired upon her, they bounded forward and engaged with her in a terrific combat, but she tore them dreadfully, and managed to escape. Poor Ben was so badly injured in the encounter as to require my surgical care and assistance for a week or more afterwards; but though I hunted and hunted, I could find no more trace of the beasts or of any animals like them. I was, therefore, not able then, nor am I able now, to pronounce with certainty upon their character. If they were not Jaguars which had strayed up beyond the usual range, I know not what to call them.”³⁶

FOOD HABITS

In its Texan range the Jaguar feeds on turtles, fish, turkeys, Peccaries, Deer, Cattle, and wild Horses; in Central and South America it adds to this list Agoutis, Capybaras, Tapirs, and Monkeys; and there can be no doubt that it preys on every kind of large animal that it can find and master. This, of course, makes a full list of all the quadrupeds, birds, fish, and reptiles of considerable size found on its range.

It prefers, indeed, the biggest game, for it is gifted with tremendous

³⁶Adv. J. C. Adams, pp. 358-61.

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strength, as well as courage and ferocity. Azara tells of one dragging a Horse carcass for 70 paces, then across a river and into the far woods.³⁷

Humboldt records their carrying off the swine of the natives, but says that, nevertheless, they were less of a menace than the Bats, by which he means the blood-seeking Vampire Bats that bleed the Cattle so mercilessly and so insidiously that human vigilance is completely set at naught. "Great numbers perished in consequence of wounds made by the Bats."³⁸ E. A. Goldman says: "At Chepo, I learned that wandering Jaguars periodically kill Cattle ranging on the savannas between that point and the city of Panama."³⁹

Like its cousin the Cougar, the Jaguar seems sometimes to make the dietary error of lurching on Porcupine, for Azara mentions having seen spines of the Couiy, or South American Porcupine, in the Jaguar's excrement.⁴⁰

It seems to be a rule that none of the tropical Cats have any fear of water. It is well known that all of the felines love to be warm. They have not the fur to resist the wet, so in cold regions avoid the water. The Jaguar in its equatorial home is credited with many aquatic ways. It will swim rivers of any width when they lie across its path. It will dash into the water to attack an enemy, and is said by many observers to be an adept at catching fish.

Azara's description of this handsome creature playing fisherman is picturesque and probably true, if we explain the saliva bait as accidental rather than part of the plan. He says: "The Jaguar frequently goes into the water a little way, and there discharges some saliva, which attracts the fish, which greedily snap at it, when the Jaguar, who is very fond of them, by a stroke of his paw tosses them on the bank."⁴¹

Its far-prowling habit in search of food is thus set forth by Nelson: "Few predatory animals are such wanderers as the Jaguar, which roams hundreds of miles from its original home, as shown by its occasional appearance within our borders. In the heavy tropical forest it so commonly follows the large wandering herds of White-lipped Peccaries that some of the Mexicans contend that every large herd is trailed by a Tiger to pick up stragglers. Along the Mexican coast in spring, when sea-turtles crawl up the beaches to bury their eggs in the sand, the rising sun often reveals the

³⁷Nat. Hist. Para., p. 185.

³⁸Pers. Narr., II, p. 267.

³⁹Mamm. Panama, Smith. Inst., 1920, p. 167.

⁴⁰Nat. Hist. Para., p. 185.

⁴¹As above, p. 185.

Plate IV.

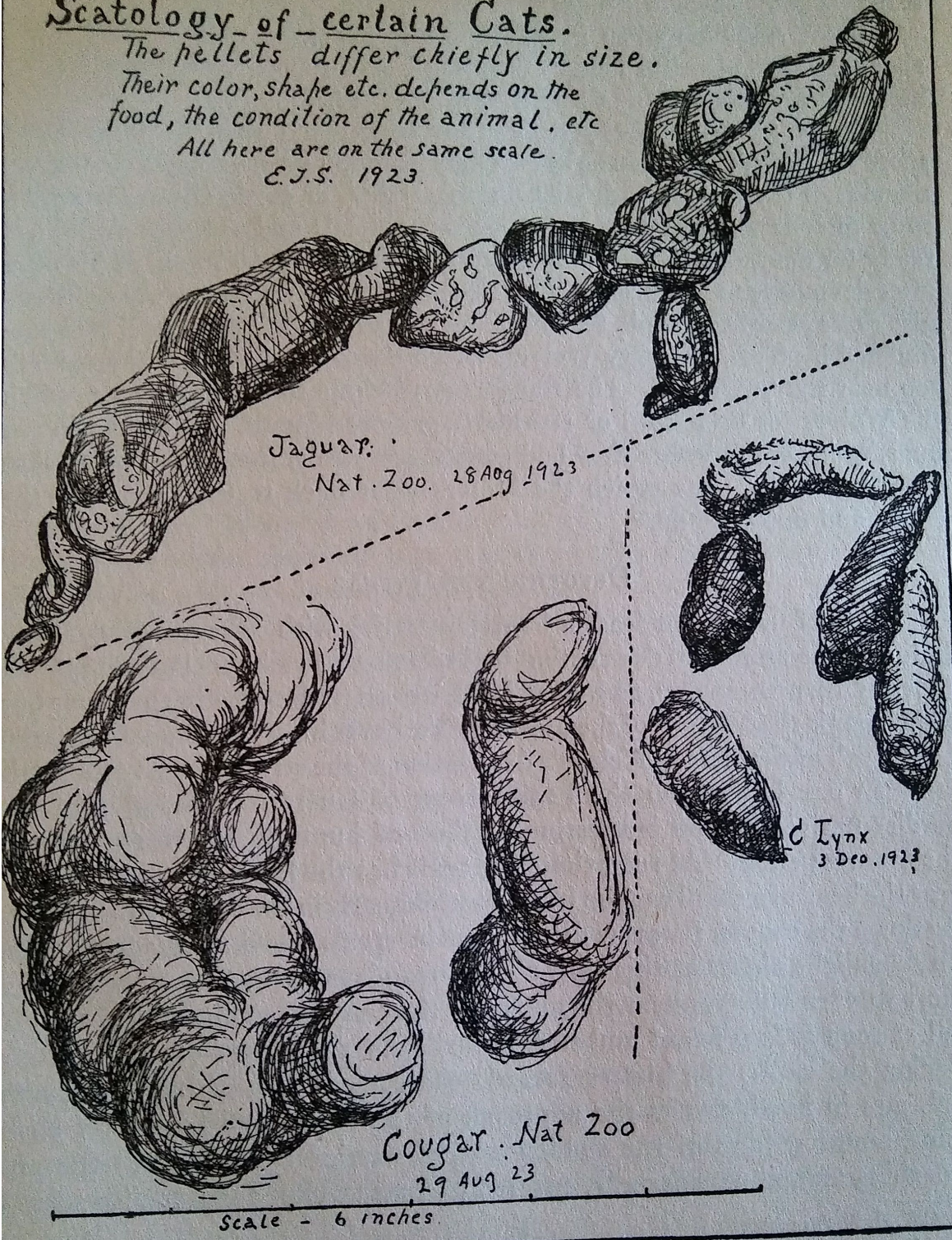
Scatology of certain Cats.

The pellets differ chiefly in size.

Their color, shape etc. depends on the food, the condition of the animal, etc

All here are on the same scale.

E.J.S. 1923.



Jaguar:
Nat. Zoo. 28 Aug 1923

Cougar. Nat Zoo
29 Aug 23

Lynx
3 Dec. 1923

Scale - 6 inches.

fresh tracks of the Jaguar where it has travelled for miles along the shore in search of these savoury deposits."⁴²

J. W. Audubon when in San Antonio, Texas, in 1845, learned much about the then plentiful Jaguars from the Texan Rangers, who were mighty hunters when not proving themselves mighty warriors.

He gives us thus a fine picture of the dignity and conscious force of our spotted King-cat: "When he has finished his meal, he sometimes covers the remains of the carcass with sticks, grass, weeds, or earth, if not disturbed, so as to conceal it from other predaceous animals and vultures until he is ready for another banquet. The Jaguar often lies down to guard his prey after devouring as much as he can. On one occasion a small party of Rangers came across one while feeding upon a mustang. The animal was surrounded by 8 or 10 hungry Wolves, which dared not interfere or approach too near the 'presence.' The Rangers gave chase to the Jaguar, on which the Wolves set up a howl or cry like a pack of hounds, and joined in the hunt, which ended before they had gone many yards, the Jaguar being shot down as he ran, upon which the Wolves went back to the carcass of the Horse and finished him."⁴³

DECOYING THE JAGUAR

Most of us have at least a book-familiarity with Moose-calling—that is, luring the animal to destruction by imitating its call notes at the mating time. Other ruminants, as well as birds, are often decoyed in this way, but the Jaguar is the only one of the big Cats that I ever heard of responding to the fateful call of the siren. Nelson's description of the stratagem is as follows:

"In one locality on the Pacific coast of Guerrero I found that the hardier natives had an interesting method of hunting the 'Tigre' during the mating period. At such times the male has the habit of leaving its lair near the head of a small canyon in the foothills early in the evening and following down the canyon for some distance, at intervals uttering a subdued roar. On moonlight nights at this time the hunter places an expert native with a short wooden trumpet near the mouth of the canyon to imitate the 'Tigre's' call as soon as it is heard and to repeat the cry at proper intervals. After placing the caller, the hunter ascends the canyon several hundred yards and, gun in hand, awaits the approach of the animal. The natives have many amusing tales of the sudden exit of untried hunters when the approaching animal unexpectedly uttered its roar at close quarters."⁴⁴

⁴²W. A. N. A., p. 413.

⁴³Q. N. A., III, p. 5.

⁴⁴W. A. N. A., p. 413.

ATTACKS ON MANKIND

To what extent does the superb King-cat commit the crime of crimes, that is, attack mankind?

Unlike the agile Cougar, it undoubtedly takes its occasional toll of our species, and is so amply equipped that only expert hunters fully armed, prepared, and backed by Dogs, have a chance against it in midnight attack.

Azara credits it with a discriminating taste in one of these night raids on a camp. He says it carries off first, by preference, a Dog, then a Negro, then an Indian, and last a Spaniard.⁴⁵

Such exact analysis is probably true of individuals rather than of the species, for the fuller our information, the more we are impressed with the individual variation in body and mind of all great wild beasts.

There can be no question of this, however: The Jaguar occasionally attacks mankind, and is the only American animal that sometimes becomes a man-eater.

Azara says: "Since I have been in Paraguay, the few Jaguars remaining in this country have devoured 6 men, carrying off 2 of them from the midst of companies, who were warming themselves by the fire."⁴⁶

In his South American journey, Roosevelt gives the following account: "The Jaguar, however, has long been known, not only to be a dangerous foe when itself attacked, but also, now and then, to become a man-eater. Therefore, the instances of such attacks furnished me are of merely corroborative value.

"In the excellent zoölogical gardens at Buenos Aires the curator, Doctor Onelli, a naturalist of note, showed us a big male Jaguar which had been trapped in the Chaco, where it had already begun a career as a man-eater, having killed 3 persons. They were killed, and 2 of them were eaten; the animal was trapped in consequence of the alarm excited by the death of his third victim. This Jaguar was very savage; whereas a young Jaguar, which was in a cage with a young Tiger, was playful and friendly, as was also the case with the young Tiger. On my trip to visit La Plata Museum I was accompanied by Captain Vicente Montes, of the Argentine Navy, an accomplished officer of scientific attainments. He had at one time been engaged on a survey of the boundary between the Argentine and Parana and Brazil. They had a quantity of dried beef in camp. On several occasions a Jaguar

⁴⁵Nat. Hist. Para., p. 186.

⁴⁶As above, p. 186.

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came into camp after this dried beef. Finally they succeeded in protecting it so that he could not reach it. The result, however, was disastrous. On the next occasion that he visited camp, at midnight, he seized a man. Everybody was asleep at the time, and the Jaguar came in so noiselessly as to elude the vigilance of the Dogs. As he seized the man, the latter gave one yell, but the next moment was killed, the Jaguar driving his fangs through the man's skull into the brain. There was a scene of uproar and confusion and the Jaguar was forced to drop his prey and flee into the woods. Next morning they followed him with the Dogs and finally killed him. He was a large male, in first-class condition. The only feature of note about these two incidents was that in each case the man-eater was a powerful animal, in the prime of life; whereas it frequently happens that the Jaguars that turn man-eaters are old animals, and have become too inactive or too feeble to catch their ordinary prey."⁴⁷

We have evidence that, like the Wolf and the Grizzly-bear, at one time fearless enemies of man, the Jaguar is now learning the lesson of "guns" and avoids man at any price; whereas in ancient days he was quite ready to face, and even make a meal of him.

THE MURDEROUS JAGUAR OF SANTA FE

One of the most sanguinary and amazing Jaguar experiences on record took place at Santa Fe, N. Mex., a century ago. There can be no question of its accuracy. This Jaguar undoubtedly killed 4 men, but the animal was at bay, unable to escape, and believed itself attacked.

The story appears in the annals of the convent of San Francisco.

His Excellency, Governor J. F. Hinkle of New Mexico, writes me (Oct. 2, 1923) that, according to Col. R. E. Twitchell, the historian, the Convent of San Francisco was situated on the Rio Grande, or Rio Bravo, 18 miles from Santa Fe, at the place now known as Pena Blanca, where its ruins are still to be seen.

The following, an abridged translation from the Spanish, I take from Baird's "Mammals of the Mexican Boundary" (pp. 7-8):

"On April 10, 1825, a lay brother, after having made confession and concluded his prayers, entered the sacristy. There he was terror-stricken on opening the door and seeing himself almost face to face with a Jaguar ('Tigre') of very extraordinary size. In a moment the poor man was in the clutches of the beast, which dragged its victim into a back corner to finish the bloody work.

⁴⁷Braz. Wild., pp. 31-32.

"The guardian of the convent, on hearing the exclamations in the sacristy, hurried to enter the fatal room, and had scarcely become aware of what had happened when the animal leaped upon his second victim and despatched him with the same promptitude as the first.

"After a while several other men attempted to enter the bloody sacristy, but not without meeting a similar fate, for the first one opening the door was immediately slain.

"A senator, Mr. Iriondo, being present, tried now to approach the sacristy by an adjoining back room which communicated with the former by a small door. The Jaguar, however, had left the sacristy in the meantime through that very door which Mr. I. wanted to use, and before the latter, followed by a small crowd, could enter it, he heard cries, 'Here he is! here he goes! save me!' With this the roaring of the Jaguar was heard, and mingled with it the last exclamations of a fourth victim. Each party now retired, the convent people to the church and the Jaguar to where he had chosen his first stronghold.

"Mr. I. now approached and bolted the door of the sacristy opening into the church, making the least noise he could. A hole was then bored through the door, and finally the crowd succeeded in shooting and killing the dreadful monster through the opening thus prepared."

To this Baird adds: "Some explanation is necessary to make more intelligible this almost incredible occurrence. The Convent of San Francisco in Santa Fe is situated upon the banks of the Rio Bravo [now Rio Grande], which, after freshets, occasionally overflows the islands in front of the town. During one of these overflows all the animals living in the thickets upon the island seem to have been driven out; among them the above Jaguar, which made for the Town side, where he entered the gardens of the convent. A low wall only encircles the latter toward the river. From the gardens he entered a small door, accidentally left open, and so came through an old back vestry to the sacristy. At the time his first unfortunate victim entered the sanctuary from the church side the animal was perfectly aware that his retreat was cut off by the river flood, and thus found himself forced to the desperate attack upon a man, which he was likewise compelled to repeat several times."

CURIOSITY

There can be no question of the fact that all highly intelligent animals are much moved by laudable curiosity—the desire to understand some new strange animal, object, or circumstance.

"The Jaguar," says Humboldt, "like the Wolf of Europe, follows travellers even when he will not attack them—the Wolf in the open fields

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and in unsheltered places, the Jaguar skirting the road, and appearing only at intervals between the bushes."⁴³

Audubon and Bachman have much to tell on this subject. They say: "The Jaguar has been known to follow man for a long time." Then add details of an inquisitive individual that followed Colonel Hays. He whirled around and saw the Jaguar looking "right in his eye and gently waving his tail." "The skin was so beautiful it was a pleasure to look at it." So he killed it.⁴⁴ George K. Cherrie tells me that in Venezuela in 1905, a Jaguar followed him for a quarter mile out of harmless curiosity.

PLAYFULNESS

As a final chapter that aims to present a more pleasing conception of the Jaguar than the established picture of it as a monster of unmitigated and bloody ferocity, I recite an incident that Humboldt recorded and apparently accepted for truth:

"Some months before our arrival [in the Orinoco country], a Jaguar, which was thought to be young, though of a large size, had wounded a child in playing with him.

"The facts of this case, which were verified to us on the spot, are not without interest in the history of the manners of animals. Two Indian children, a boy and a girl, about 8 and 9 years of age, were seated on the grass near the village of Atures, in the middle of a savanna which we several times traversed. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon, a Jaguar issued from the forest and approached the children, bounding around them; sometimes he hid himself in the high grass, sometimes he sprang forward, his back bent, his head hung down, in the manner of our Cats. The little boy, ignorant of his danger, seemed to be sensible of it only when the Jaguar with one of his paws gave him some blows on the head. These blows, at first slight, became ruder and ruder; the claws of the Jaguar wounded the child, and the blood flowed freely. The little girl then took a branch of a tree, struck the animal, and it fled from her. The Indians ran up at the cries of the children and saw the Jaguar, which then bounded off without making the least show of resistance.

"The little boy was brought to us, who appeared lively and intelligent. The claw of the Jaguar had torn away the skin from the lower part of the forehead, and there was a second scar at the top of the head. This was a singular fit of playfulness in an animal which, though not difficult to be tamed in our menageries, nevertheless shows itself always wild and ferocious

⁴³Pers. Narr., II, p. 27.

⁴⁴Q. N. A., III, p. 5.

in its natural state. If we admit that, being sure of its prey, it played with the little Indian as our Cats play with birds whose wings have been clipped, how shall we explain the patience of a Jaguar of large size which finds itself attacked by a girl? If the Jaguar were not pressed by hunger, why did it approach the children at all?

“There is something mysterious in the affections and hatreds of animals. We have known Lions to kill 3 or 4 Dogs that were put into their dens and instantly caress a fifth which, less timid, took the king of animals by the mane.”⁵⁰

Had Humboldt been equipped with the fuller information that is presented in the Cougar chapter of this work, he would have been led much further in this recognition of the animal's human side. He would doubtless have concluded, as do most modern naturalists, that these, our wild brethren, have the same faculties and emotions as we do, even though in less development. Moreover, they vary as ours do. Sweeping generalizations are useful chiefly in emphasizing the wonderful and variant individuality of these animals.

ENEMIES

W. H. Hudson has given a remarkable account of the enmity that exists between the Jaguar and the Cougar.⁵¹ Other witnesses substantiate the story. These animals have declared war on each other, and when they meet it is a fight to a finish; and strange to tell, although the Jaguar is bigger, heavier, and stronger, the Cougar is usually the aggressor, and, thanks to his superior agility, is commonly the victor.

There are in current literature many accounts of Jaguars being hunted down and cut to pieces by herds of Havelines or Peccaries. According to some, this valiant little Wild Hog is the most dreaded, fearless, and successful enemy of the big King-cat, but so far I find little foundation for the tales.

The Peccary is the habitual and lawful prey of the Jaguar, and when attacked, adopts the only open and sensible course: he seeks to save his life by headlong flight.

Man is, of course, the implacable enemy of the Jaguar. It is only a question of time now, and maybe very little time, so far as the United States is concerned, before man sends this masterpiece of creation the way of the Dodo, the Auk, the Antelope, and the Sea-cow. One cannot reasonably

⁵⁰ Pers. Narr., II, pp. 267-68.

⁵¹ Nat. La Plata, p. 48.

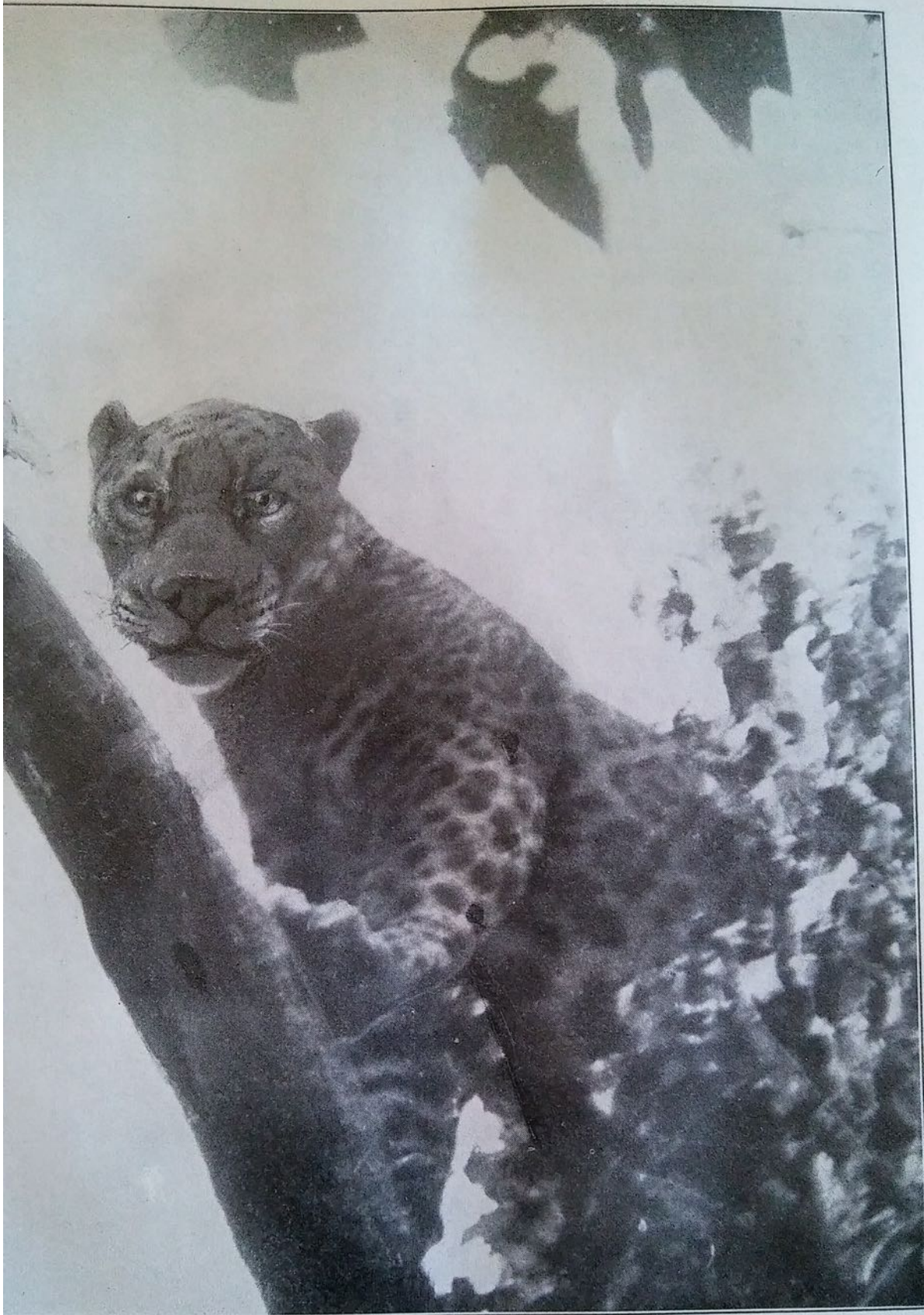


PLATE V.—“OLD ONE-FANG” AT BAY

Photograph at 15 feet, by John M. Phillips of Pittsburgh, Pa.
This is believed to be the only photograph ever taken of a live Jaguar
in its native wilds. Taken near Tampico, Mexico, Dec. 21, 1910



Crossing The Divide

REFERENCES FOR JAGUAR

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