

Bobcat (*Felis rufus*)



Bobcat
Taylor County Historical Society Museum

Wild cats have been seen near Medford in the past and to the present day.

Arthur Latton wrote the following in his local history book.

"Wild cats were quite numerous. Bounties were paid on 155 cats, while only 57 were paid on wolves, and 59 on foxes."

Dan Powell, an early hunter, described his encounter with a wild cat in 1898.

"Dan Powell, while penetrating a cedar swamp near his father's mill recently, came upon a **huge wild cat**. Dan's only shooting iron was an axe, and **the cat** evidently thought he was harmless and scampered lazily into a hollow log. Dan immediately plugged the hole in the log and commenced chopping a hole at about where he thought **the cat** was located, and soon succeeded in giving **the critter** a blow from the effects of which it passed in its checks. Dan says he **weighed sixty-three pounds**."

In recent years, people continue to observe and hunt Bob Cats in Taylor County. Many are happy to see the return of this beautiful cat. Why do some want to hunt and kill?

References

Latton, A. 1947. Reminiscences and anecdotes of early Taylor County. Medford, Wisconsin: Self published, p. 87.

Taylor County Star and News. March 12, 1898. Star. Vol. XXI, No. 44, News. No. 1137.

Taylor County Star and News. January 12, 1901. Star Vol. XXV, No. 36, News Whole Number 1281.

Fischer - Wild cat

Taylor County Star-News, Friday, March 5, 1909, Thirty-fourth Year, No. 49.

L. J. Luxem, of Westboro brought a couple of wild cat skins in for bounty Wednesday