Belize: In the Forest

Photography by Jacalyn and Gregory Willis
Predators come in all sizes. This one is about 6 inches long.
Cats are curious and this puma checked out our surveillance camera.
Sometimes we are lucky and a mother puma walks by with her new babies.
Pumas here are very slim when they have to compete with the bigger jaguars.
This jaguar is one of the bigger ones.
It can be difficult to catch a deer or peccary, so a puma may not eat every day.
Deer like this white-tail do not walk the trails when jaguars and pumas are around. Instead, they hide among the trees and shrubs.
Turkeys are especially wary and notice every new thing in the forest.
This species is the Ocellated Turkey, native to Central America and extinct in many locations.
If turkeys get careless they become someone’s dinner.
Ocelots are mid-sized cats, up to 40 lbs, but they can prey on small deer too.
The little brocket deer are also very shy because they are a favorite prey of cats.
Jaguars often fill their bellies and are clearly successful in this forest.
Their spot patterns are unique, like a fingerprint, and so we can tell them apart.
Collared peccaries live in small herds and avoid their predators. They can use their little tusks for defense, but that is not always enough.
This puma killed a deer and covered the carcass with leaves to hide it for a meal later.
He is suspicious of the camera placed near his dead deer.
A deer can provide several meals for a puma.