**MAMMALS**

**Armadillo** — The nine-banded armadillo (Dasypus novemcinctus) is one of Texas’ most interesting mammals. It is found in most of the state except the western Trans-Pecos. It is now common as far north and east as Oklahoma and Mississippi.

**Badger** — The badger (Taxidea taxus) is found throughout the state, except the extreme eastern parts. It is a fierce fighter, and it is valuable in helping control the rodent population.

**Bat** — Thirty-two species of these winged mammals have been found in Texas, more than in any other state in the United States.

**Bear** — The black bear (Ursus americanus), formerly common throughout most of the state, is now surviving in remnant populations in portions of the Trans-Pecos. Recently, some have been moving into East Texas from neighboring states. [(Click, **for additional discussion** of habitat.)](http://texasalmanac.com/topics/environment/new-habitat-black-bears)

**Beaver** — The American beaver (Castor canadensis) is found over most of the state except for the Llano Estacado and parts of the Trans-Pecos.

**Bighorn** — (See Sheep.)

**Bison** — The largest of native terrestrial wild mammals of North America, the American bison (Bos bison), commonly called buffalo, was formerly found in the western two-thirds of the state.

**Cat** — The jaguar *(Felis onca)* is probably now extinct in Texas and, along with the ocelot, jaguarundi and margay, is listed as rare and endangered by both federal and state wildlife agencies. The mountain lion *(Felis concolor)*, also known as cougar and puma, was once found statewide.

**Chipmunk** — The gray-footed chipmunk (Tamias canipes) is found at high altitudes in the Guadalupe and Sierra Diablo ranges of the Trans-Pecos (see also Ground Squirrel, with which it is often confused in public reference).

**Coati** — The white-nosed coati (Nasua narica), a relative of the raccoon, is occasionally found in southern Texas from Brownsville to the Big Bend. It inhabits woodland areas and feeds both on the ground and in trees.

**Coyote** — The coyote (Canis latrans), great in number, is the most destructive Texas predator of livestock. On the other hand, it is probably the most valuable predator in the balance of nature. It is a protection to crops and range lands by its control of rodents and rabbits. It is found throughout the state, but is most numerous in the brush country of Southwest Texas. It is the second-most important fur-bearing animal in the state.

**Deer** — The white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus), found throughout the state in brushy or wooded areas, is the most important Texas game animal. Its numbers in Texas are estimated at more than 3 million. The mule deer (Odocoileus heminous) is found principally in the Trans-Pecos and Panhandle areas. It has increased in number in recent years. The little Del Carmen deer (white-tailed subspecies) is found in limited numbers in the high valleys of the Chisos Mountains in the Big Bend. The only native elk in Texas (Cervus merriami), found in the southern Guadalupe Mountains, became extinct about the turn of the 20th century. The wapiti or elk (Cervus elaphus), was introduced into the same area about 1928. There are currently several herds totalling several hundred individuals.

**Dolphin** — The Atlantic spotted dolphin*(Stenella frontalis)* is rather small, long-snouted, and spotted; it is purplish gray, appearing blackish at a distance, usually with numerous small white or gray spots on its sides and back. In the Gulf of Mexico, this dolphin is second in abundance only to the bottlenose dolphin. The bottlenose *(Tursiops truncatus)*is stout and short-beaked with sloping forehead, projecting lower jaw, and high dorsal fin.

**Ferret** — The black-footed ferret (Mustela nigripes) was formerly found widely ranging through the West Texas country of the prairie dog on which it preyed. It is now considered extinct in Texas. It is of the same genus as the weasel and the mink.

**Fox** — The common gray fox (Urocyon cinereoargenteus) is found throughout most of the state, primarily in the woods of East Texas, in broken parts of the Edwards Plateau, and in the rough country at the foot of the High Plains. The kit or Swift fox (Vulpes velox) is found in the western one-third of the state. A second species of kit fox (Vulpes macrotis) is found in the Trans-Pecos and is fairly numerous in some localities.

**Gopher** — Nine species of pocket gopher occur in Texas. The Botta’s pocket gopher*(Thomomys bottae)* is found from the Trans-Pecos eastward across the Edwards Plateau. The plains pocket gopher *(Geomys bursarius)* is found from Midland and Tom Green counties east and north to McLennan, Dallas and Grayson counties.

**Ground Squirrel** — Five or more species of ground squirrel live in Texas, mostly in the western part of the state. The rock squirrel *(Spermophilus variegatus)* is found throughout the Edwards Plateau and Trans-Pecos. TheMexican ground squirrel*(Spermophilus mexicanus)* is found in southern and western Texas. The spotted ground squirrel *(Spermophilus spilosoma)* is found generally in the western half of the state. The thirteen-lined ground squirrel*(Spermophilus tridecemlineatus)* is found in a narrow strip from Dallas and Tarrant counties to the Gulf. The Texas antelope squirrel*(Ammospermophilus interpres)* is found along the Rio Grande from El Paso to Val Verde County.

**Javelina** — The javelina or collared peccary (Tayassu tajacu) is found in brushy semidesert where prickly pear, a favorite food, is found. The javelina was hunted commercially for its hide until 1939. They are harmless to livestock and to people, though they can defend themselves ferociously when attacked by hunting dogs.

**Mink** — The mink (Mustela vison) is found in the eastern half of the state, always near streams, lakes or other water sources.

**Mole** — The eastern mole (Scalopus aquaticus) is found in the eastern two-thirds of the state.

**Muskrat** — The common muskrat (Ondatra zibethica), occurs in aquatic habitats in the northern, southeastern and southwestern parts of the state. Although the muskrat was once economically valuable for its fur, its numbers have declined, mostly because of the loss of habitat.

**Opossum** — A marsupial, the Virginia opossum *(Didelphis virginiana)* is found in nearly all parts of the state. The opossum has economic value for its pelt, and its meat is considered a delicacy by some. It is one of the chief contributors to the Texas fur crop.

**Otter** — A few river otter *(Lutra canadensis)* are found in the eastern quarter of the state. It has probably been extirpated from the Panhandle, north-central and southern Texas.

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| *Feral pig.* |

**Pig, Feral**\* — Feral pigs are found throughout Texas but especially in areas of the Rio Grande and Coastal Plains, as well as in the woods of East Texas. They are descendants of escaped domestic hogs or of European wild hogs that were imported for sport. Their rooting habits can extensively destroy vegetation and soil.

**Porcupine** — The yellow-haired porcupine*(Erethizon dorsatum)* is found from the western half of the state east to Bosque County. It is adapted to a variety of habitats and, in recent years, has expanded into South Texas.

**Prairie Dog** — Until recent years probably no sight was so universal in West Texas as theblack-tailed prairie dog *(Cynomys ludovicianus)*. Naturalists estimated its population in the hundreds of millions, and prairie-dog towns often covered many acres with thickly spaced burrows.

**Pronghorn** — The Pronghorn *(Antilocapra americana)* formerly was found in the western two-thirds of the state. It is currently found only in limited areas from the Panhandle to the Trans-Pecos. Despite management efforts, its numbers have been decreasing in recent years.

**Rabbit** — The black-tailed jack rabbit *(Lepus californicus)* is found throughout Texas except in the Big Thicket area of East Texas. It breeds rapidly, and its long hind legs make it one of the world’s faster-running animals. The Eastern cottontail *(Sylvilagus floridanus)* is found mostly in the eastern three-quarters of the state. The desert cottontail *(Sylvilagus auduboni)*is found in the western half of the state, usually on the open range. The swamp rabbit*(Sylvilagus aquaticus)* is found in East Texas and the coastal area.

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| *Raccoon.* |

**Raccoon** — The raccoon*(Procyon lotor)* is found throughout Texas, especially in woodlands and near water. It is strictly nocturnal.

**Ringtail** — The ringtail *(Bassariscus astutus)* is a cat-sized carnivore resembling a small fox with a long raccoon-like tail. It found statewide but is rare in the Lower Valley and the Coastal Plains. Ringtails are nocturnal and live in a variety of habitats, preferring rocky areas, such as rock piles, stone fences, and canyon walls.

**Skunk** — There are six species of skunk in Texas.

**Squirrel** — The eastern fox squirrel (Sciurus niger) is found in the eastern two-thirds of the state. The eastern gray squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis) is found generally in the eastern third of the state. The flying squirrel (Glaucomys volans) is found in wooded areas of East Texas.

**Weasel** — The long-tailed weasel (Mustela frenata), akin to the mink, is found statewide, but is scarce in West Texas and the far north Panhandle. In general, their destruction of mice, ground squirrels, and pocket gophers benefits agriculture.

**Whale** — Some species that are found in the Gulf of Mexico include: dwarf sperm whale(Kogia simus); pygmy sperm whale (Kogia breviceps), found near the Texas coast where strandings occur relatively frequently; short-finned pilot whale (Globicephala macrorhynchus), common in the Gulf where there are numerous strandings and sightings; sperm whale (Physeter macrocephalus), an endangered species and the most numerous of the great whales in the Gulf, where sightings are relatively common. Other species are known in Texas only through strandings on Gulf beaches.

**Wolf** — The red wolf (Canis rufus) was once found throughout the eastern half of the state. It has now been extirpated from the wild, with the only known remnants of the population now in captive propagation. The gray wolf (Canis lupus) once had a wide range over the western two-thirds of the state. It is now considered extinct in Texas. The red wolf and gray wolf are on the federal and state rare and endangered species lists.

REPTILES AND ARACHNIDS

Most of the more than 100 species and subspecies of snakes found in Texas are beneficial, as also are other reptiles. There are 16 poisonous species and subspecies.

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| *Alligator.* |

Poisonous reptiles include three species of copperheads (southern, broad-banded and Trans-Pecos); one kind of cottonmouth (western); 11 kinds of rattlesnakes (canebrake, western massasauga, desert massasauga, western pigmy, western diamondback, timber, banded rock, mottled rock, northern blacktailed, Mojave and prairie); and the Texas coral snake.

 Also noteworthy are the horned lizard, also calledhorned toad, which is on the list of threatened species; the vinegarone, a type of whip scorpion; tarantula, a hairy spider; and alligator.

BIRDS

Geese, Ducks, Quail, Loon, Grebe, Ibis, Vulture, Hawks, Osprey, Kites, Eagle, Falcons, Cranes, Plovers, Gull, Tern, Pigeons, Doves, Owls, Swifts, Hummingbirds, Kingfisher, Sapsucker, Woodpecker, Flycatcher, Shrike, Jays, Magpies, Ravens, Crows, Larks, Swallows, Chickadees, Wrens, Warbler, Cardinals, Sparrows, Oriole.

INSECTS

Moths, Weevils, Bees, Ticks, Wasps, Antlion, Aphids, Lady Beetle, Assassin Bug, Hornets, Firefly, Ants, Butterflys, Dragonfly, Treehopper, Cricket, Praying Mantis, Walking Stick, etc.

PLANTS

<https://www.wildflower.org/collections/collection.php?collection=TX_northcentral>

GO TO THE ABOVE WEBSITE TO SEE THE LIST OF NATIVE PLANTS IN TEXAS!!! THERE ARE TOO MANY TO LIST HERE!