

AMPHIBIANS and REPTILES of the  
BALCONES CANYONLANDS NWR

Updated: September 22, 2008

Despite intensive field work since 1989, relatively little concerted effort has been focused on searching for amphibians and reptiles on the Refuge. Except for a few of the most conspicuous diurnal species, most amphibians are only detected after heavy rains. Many of the snake species are seldom encountered although they may be fairly numerous. Taxonomy and species sequence generally follows Dixon (1987) and Werner and Dixon (2000) with common names (e.g., at the subspecific level) sometimes taken from Garrett and Barker (1987).

Amphibians

Whitethroat Slimy Salamander	<i>Plethodon glutinosus albagula</i>	Uncommon
Cliff Chirping Frog	<i>Syrrophus marnockii</i>	Common
Blanchard's Cricket Frog	<i>Acris crepitans blanchardi</i>	Abundant
Gray Treefrog	<i>Hyla versicolor</i>	Rare
[Spotted/Upland Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacris clarki/triseriata</i>	Hypothetical]
Strecker's Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacris streckeri</i>	Common
Red-spotted Toad	<i>Bufo punctatus</i>	Rare
Gulf Coast Toad	<i>Bufo valiceps</i>	Fairly common
Couch's Spadefoot Toad	<i>Scaphiopus couchii</i>	Uncommon
Rio Grande Leopard Frog	<i>Rana berlandieri</i>	Abundant
(Note: Some Leopard Frogs appear to be intermediate between <i>R. berlandieri</i> and <i>R. sphenoccephala</i> , the Southern Leopard Frog and even similar to <i>R. blairi</i> , the Plains Leopard Frog.)		
Bullfrog	<i>Rana catesbiana</i>	Rare
Great Plains Narrowmouth Toad	<i>Gastrophyne olivacea</i>	Uncommon

Reptiles

Common Snapping Turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina serpentina</i>	Fairly common
Yellow Mud Turtle	<i>Kinosternon flavescens</i>	Uncommon
Texas Cooter	<i>Pseudemys texana</i>	Common
Ornate Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene ornata ornata</i>	Introduced and rare resident
Red-eared Slider	<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>	Common
Texas Tortoise	<i>Gopherus berlandieri</i>	(probably) Introduced
Spiny Softshell (ssp.)	<i>Trionyx spinifer</i> ssp.	Uncommon
Mediterranean Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus turanicus</i>	Fairly common (structures)
Green Anole	<i>Anolis carolinensis</i>	Common
Texas Earless Lizard	<i>Cophosaurus texanus texanus</i>	Common
Eastern Collared Lizard	<i>Crotaphytus collaris collaris</i>	Uncommon
[Eastern Earless Lizard	<i>Holbrookia maculata perspicua</i>	Hypothetical]
Texas Spiny Lizard	<i>Sceloporus olivaceus</i>	Fairly common
Southern Prairie Lizard	<i>Sceloporus undulatus consobrinus</i>	Fairly common
Eastern Tree Lizard	<i>Urosaurus ornatus ornatus</i>	Probably rare
Short-lined Skink	<i>Eumeces tetragrammus brevilineatus</i>	Uncommon
Ground Skink	<i>Scincella lateralis</i>	Common
Texas Spotted Whiptail	<i>Cnemidophorus gularis gularis</i>	Uncommon
Six-lined or Prairie Racerunner	<i>Cnemidophorus sexlineatus</i> ssp.?	Fairly common
Plains Blind Snake	<i>Leptotyphlops dulcis dulcis</i>	Uncommon
Eastern Yellow-bellied Racer	<i>Coluber constrictor faviventris</i>	Uncommon
Prairie Ring-necked Snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus arnyi</i>	Rare, one report
Great Plains Rat Snake	<i>Elaphe guttata emoryi</i>	Rare
Texas Rat Snake	<i>Elaphe obsoleta lindheimeri</i>	Fairly common
Eastern Hog-nosed Snake	<i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>	Rare
Western Coachwhip	<i>Masticophis flagellum testaceus</i>	Fairly common
Central Texas Whipsnake	<i>Masticophis taeniatus girardi</i>	Uncommon

Blotched Water Snake	<i>Nerodia erythrogaster transversa</i>	Uncommon
Diamond-backed Water Snake	<i>Nerodia rhombifer rhombifer</i>	Uncommon
Rough Green Snake	<i>Ophedrys aestivus</i>	Fairly common
Bullsnake	<i>Pituophis satenifer sayi</i>	Rare
Texas Patchnose Snake	<i>Salvadora grahamiae lineata</i>	Uncommon
Great Plains Ground Snake	<i>Sonora semiannulata semiannulata</i>	Fairly common
Flat-headed Snake	<i>Tantilla gracilis</i>	Rare?; two reports
Plains Black-headed Snake	<i>Tantilla nigriceps fumiceps</i>	Rare, one report
Eastern Black-necked Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis cyrtopsis ocellatus</i>	Uncommon
Checkered Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis marcianus marcianus</i>	Rare?; one report
Red-striped Ribbon Snake	<i>Thamnophis proximus rubrilineatus</i>	Fairly common
Rough Earth Snake	<i>Virginia striatula</i>	Uncommon?
Texas Coral Snake	<i>Micrurus fulvius tener</i>	Uncommon
Broad-banded Copperhead	<i>Agkistrodon contortrix laticinctus</i>	Uncommon
Western Cottonmouth	<i>Agkistrodon piscivorous leucostoma</i>	Uncommon
Western Diamondback Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus atrox</i>	Common