



Amphibians and Reptiles of Aransas National Wildlife Refuge

Abundance

- C Common; suitable habitat is available, should not be missed during appropriate season.
- U Uncommon; present in moderate numbers (often due to low availability of suitable habitat); not seen every visit during season
- O Occasional; present, observed only a few times per season; also includes those species which do not occur year, while in some years may be fairly common.
- R Rare; observed only every 1 to 5 years; records for species at Aransas are sporadic and few.

Introduction

Amphibians have moist, glandular skins, and their toes are devoid of claws. Their young pass through a larval, usually aquatic, stage before they metamorphose into the adult form. Belonging to the Class Amphibia are the salamanders, frogs, and toads.

Reptiles are clad in scales, shields, or plates, and their toes bear claws. To this class belong the crocodilians, lizards, snakes, and turtles.

Note

Please remember that collecting amphibians and reptiles is not allowed on the Refuge. If you should find an unlisted or rare species, contact the Refuge staff and provide a description. We welcome any additions visitors may provide to enhance the accuracy of these lists.

Amphibians

Common Name	Abundance
Scientific Name	

Salamanders

Rio Grande Lesser Siren	C
<i>Siren intermedia texana</i>	
Smallmouth Salamander	R
<i>Ambystoma texanum</i>	
Eastern Tiger Salamander	R
<i>Ambystoma tigrinum tigrinum</i>	

Common Name	Abundance
Scientific Name	

Toads and Frogs

Couch's Spadefoot	C
<i>Scaphiopus couchi</i>	
Hurter's Spadefoot	C
<i>Scaphiopus hurteri</i>	
Blanchard's Cricket Frog	U
<i>Acris crepitans blanchardi</i>	
Green Tree Frog	C
<i>Hyla cinerea</i>	
Squirrel Tree Frog	U
<i>Hyla squirella</i>	
Spotted Chorus Frog	U
<i>Pseudacris clarki</i>	
Strecker's Chorus Frog	U
<i>Pseudacris streckeri</i>	
Texas Toad	R
<i>Bufo speciosus</i>	
Gulf Coast Toad	C
<i>Bufo valliceps valliceps</i>	
Bullfrog	C
<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>	
Southern Leopard Frog	C
<i>Rana sphenocéphala</i>	
Eastern Narrowmouth Toad	C
<i>Gastrophryne carolinensis</i>	
Great Plains Narrowmouth Toad	R
<i>Gastrophryne olivacea</i>	

Reptiles

Common Name	Abundance
Scientific Name	

Crocodilians

American Alligator	C
<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	

Turtles

Common Snapping Turtle	R
<i>Chelydra serpentina serpentina</i>	
Yellow Mud Turtle	O
<i>Kinosternon flavescens flavescens</i>	
Mississippi Mud Turtle	R
<i>Kinosternon subrubrum hippocrepsis</i>	
Texas Diamondback Terrapin	R
<i>Malaclemys terrapin littoralis</i>	
Three-toed Box Turtle	R
<i>Terrapene carolina triunguis</i>	
Ornate Box Turtle	O
<i>Terrapene ornata ornata</i>	
Red-Eared Slider	C
<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>	

Common Name	Abundance
Scientific Name	

Texas Tortoise	R
<i>Gopherus berlandieri</i>	
Guadalupe Spiny Soft-shelled Turtle	R
<i>Trionyx spiniferus guadalupensis</i>	
Loggerhead	O
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	
Atlantic Green Turtle	O
<i>Chelonia mydas mydas</i>	
Atlantic Hawksbill	O
<i>Eretmochelys imbricata imbricata</i>	
Atlantic Ridley (Kemp's Ridley)	O
<i>Lepidochelys kempi</i>	
Leatherback	R
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	

Lizards

Mediterranean Gecko	C
<i>Hemidactylus turcicus turcicus</i>	
Keeled Earless Lizard	R
<i>Holbrookia propinqua propinqua</i>	
Texas Horned Lizard	R
<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i>	
Northern Fence Lizard	C
<i>Sceloporus undulatus hyacinthinus</i>	
Green Anole	C
<i>Anolis carolinensis</i>	
Five-lined Skink	R
<i>Eumeces fasciatus</i>	
Ground Skink	C
<i>Scincella lateralis</i>	
Texas Spotted Whiptail	R
<i>Cnemidophorus gularis gularis</i>	
Six-lined Racerunner	C
<i>Cnemidophorus sexlineatus sexlineatus</i>	
Western Slender Glass Lizard	U
<i>Ophisaurus attenuatus</i>	

Snakes

Note: There are many species of snakes, some are venomous, so use caution when walking and do not handle any wildlife.

Texas Blind Snake	R
<i>Leptotyphlops dulcis</i>	
Texas Scarlet Snake	R
<i>Cemophora coccinea lineri</i>	
Eastern Yellow-bellied Racer	O
<i>Coluber constrictor flaviventris</i>	
Mexican Racer	R
<i>Coluber constrictor oaxaca</i>	
Southwestern Rat Snake	O
<i>Elaphe guttata meahllmorum</i>	

Common Name Scientific Name	Abundance	Common Name Scientific Name	Abundance	Common Name Scientific Name	Abundance
Texas Rat Snake <i>Elaphe obsoleta lindheimeri</i>	U	Diamondback Water Snake <i>Nerodia rhombifer rhombifer</i>	R	Venomous Snakes	
Western Mud Snake <i>Farancia abacura reinwardti</i>	R	Rough Green Snake <i>Opheodrys aestivus</i>	C	Texas Coral Snake	U
Dusky Hog-nosed Snake <i>Heterodon nasicus gloydi</i>	R	Bull Snake <i>Pituophis catenifer sayi</i>	R	<i>Micrurus fulvius tenere</i>	
Eastern Hog-nosed Snake <i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>	O	Graham's Crayfish Snake <i>Regina grahami</i>	O	Broad-banded Copperhead	R
Prairie King Snake <i>Lampropeltis calligaster calligaster</i>	O	Texas Brown Snake <i>Storeria dekayi texana</i>	U	<i>Agkistrodon contortrix laticinctus</i>	
Speckled King Snake <i>Lampropeltis getula holbrooki</i>	O	Flatheaded Snake <i>Tantilla gracilis</i>	O	Western Cottonmouth	C
Desert King Snake <i>Lampropeltis getula splendida</i>	R	Checkered Garter Snake <i>Thamnophis marcianus marcianus</i>	R	<i>Agkistrodon piscivorus leucostoma</i>	
Louisiana Milk Snake <i>Lampropeltis triangulum amaura</i>	R	Gulf Coast Ribbon Snake <i>Thamnophis proximus orarius</i>	C	Western Diamondback Rattlesnake	O
Mexican Milk Snake <i>Lampropeltis triangulum annulata</i>	R	Eastern Garter Snake <i>Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis</i>	R	<i>Crotalus atrox</i>	
Western Coachwhip <i>Masticophis flagellum testaceus</i>	U	Red-sided Garter Snake <i>Thamnophis sirtalis parietalis</i>	R	Western Massasauga	R
Gulf Salt Marsh Snake <i>Nerodia clarki clarki</i>	O	Texas Garter Snake <i>Thamnophis sirtalis annectens</i>	R	<i>Sistrurus catenatus tergeminus</i>	
Green Water Snake <i>Nerodia cyclopion cyclopion</i>	O	Rough Earth Snake <i>Virginia striatula</i>	O		
Broad-banded Water Snake <i>Nerodia fasciata confluens</i>	R				

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Reference:

Dixon, James R. *Amphibians and Reptiles of Texas*, College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 2000.