

BRAZORIA COUNTY

BIRDS

		Federal Status	State Status
American Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	DL	T
<p>year-round resident and local breeder in west Texas, nests in tall cliff eyries; also, migrant across state from more northern breeding areas in US and Canada, winters along coast and farther south; occupies wide range of habitats during migration, including urban, concentrations along coast and barrier islands; low-altitude migrant, stopovers at leading landscape edges such as lake shores, coastlines, and barrier islands.</p>			
Arctic Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus tundrius</i>	DL	
<p>migrant throughout state from subspecies' far northern breeding range, winters along coast and farther south; occupies wide range of habitats during migration, including urban, concentrations along coast and barrier islands; low-altitude migrant, stopovers at leading landscape edges such as lake shores, coastlines, and barrier islands.</p>			
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	DL	T
<p>found primarily near rivers and large lakes; nests in tall trees or on cliffs near water; communally roosts, especially in winter; hunts live prey, scavenges, and pirates food from other birds</p>			
Black Rail	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>		
<p>salt, brackish, and freshwater marshes, pond borders, wet meadows, and grassy swamps; nests in or along edge of marsh, sometimes on damp ground, but usually on mat of previous year's dead grasses; nest usually hidden in marsh grass or at base of Salicornia</p>			
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	DL	
<p>largely coastal and near shore areas, where it roosts and nests on islands and spoil banks</p>			
Eskimo Curlew	<i>Numenius borealis</i>	LE	E
<p>historic; nonbreeding: grasslands, pastures, plowed fields, and less frequently, marshes and mudflats</p>			
Henslow's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>		
<p>wintering individuals (not flocks) found in weedy fields or cut-over areas where lots of bunch grasses occur along with vines and brambles; a key component is bare ground for running/walking</p>			
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	DL	T
<p>both subspecies migrate across the state from more northern breeding areas in US and Canada to winter along coast and farther south; subspecies (F. p. anatum) is also a resident breeder in west Texas; the two subspecies' listing statuses differ, F.p. tundrius is no longer listed in Texas; but because the subspecies are not easily distinguishable at a distance, reference is generally made only to the species level; see subspecies for habitat.</p>			
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	LT	T
<p>wintering migrant along the Texas Gulf Coast; beaches and bayside mud or salt flats</p>			
Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>		T
<p>resident of the Texas Gulf Coast; brackish marshes and shallow salt ponds and tidal flats; nests on ground or in trees or bushes, on dry coastal islands in brushy thickets of yucca and prickly pear</p>			

BRAZORIA COUNTY

BIRDS

	Federal Status	State Status
Snowy Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> formerly an uncommon breeder in the Panhandle; potential migrant; winter along coast		
Sooty Tern <i>Sterna fuscata</i> predominately 'on the wing'; does not dive, but snatches small fish and squid with bill as it flies or hovers over water; breeding April-July		T
Southeastern Snowy Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus tenuirostris</i> wintering migrant along the Texas Gulf Coast beaches and bayside mud or salt flats		
Sprague's Pipit <i>Anthus spragueii</i> only in Texas during migration and winter, mid September to early April; short to medium distance, diurnal migrant; strongly tied to native upland prairie, can be locally common in coastal grasslands, uncommon to rare further west; sensitive to patch size and avoids edges.	C	
Western Snowy Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i> uncommon breeder in the Panhandle; potential migrant; winter along coast		
White-faced Ibis <i>Plegadis chihi</i> prefers freshwater marshes, sloughs, and irrigated rice fields, but will attend brackish and saltwater habitats; nests in marshes, in low trees, on the ground in bulrushes or reeds, or on floating mats		T
White-tailed Hawk <i>Buteo albicaudatus</i> near coast on prairies, cordgrass flats, and scrub-live oak; further inland on prairies, mesquite and oak savannas, and mixed savanna-chaparral; breeding March-May		T
Whooping Crane <i>Grus americana</i> potential migrant via plains throughout most of state to coast; winters in coastal marshes of Aransas, Calhoun, and Refugio counties	LE	E
Wood Stork <i>Mycteria americana</i> forages in prairie ponds, flooded pastures or fields, ditches, and other shallow standing water, including salt-water; usually roosts communally in tall snags, sometimes in association with other wading birds (i.e. active heronries); breeds in Mexico and birds move into Gulf States in search of mud flats and other wetlands, even those associated with forested areas; formerly nested in Texas, but no breeding records since 1960		T

FISHES

	Federal Status	State Status
American eel <i>Anguilla rostrata</i> coastal waterways below reservoirs to gulf; spawns January to February in ocean, larva move to coastal waters, metamorphose, then females move into freshwater; most aquatic habitats with access to ocean, muddy bottoms, still waters, large streams, lakes; can travel overland in wet areas; males in brackish estuaries; diet varies widely, geographically, and seasonally		
Sharpnose shiner <i>Notropis oxyrhynchus</i> endemic to Brazos River drainage; also, apparently introduced into adjacent Colorado River drainage; large turbid river, with bottom a combination of sand, gravel, and clay-mud	C	

BRAZORIA COUNTY

FISHES

		Federal Status	State Status
Smalltooth sawfish	<i>Pristis pectinata</i>	LE	E
<p>different life history stages have different patterns of habitat use; young found very close to shore in muddy and sandy bottoms, seldom descending to depths greater than 32 ft (10 m); in sheltered bays, on shallow banks, and in estuaries or river mouths; adult sawfish are encountered in various habitat types (mangrove, reef, seagrass, and coral), in varying salinity regimes and temperatures, and at various water depths, feed on a variety of fish species and crustaceans</p>			

MAMMALS

		Federal Status	State Status
Jaguarundi	<i>Herpailurus yaguarondi</i>	LE	E
<p>thick brushlands, near water favored; 60 to 75 day gestation, young born sometimes twice per year in March and August, elsewhere the beginning of the rainy season and end of the dry season</p>			
Louisiana black bear	<i>Ursus americanus luteolus</i>	LT	T
<p>possible as transient; bottomland hardwoods and large tracts of inaccessible forested areas</p>			
Ocelot	<i>Leopardus pardalis</i>	LE	E
<p>dense chaparral thickets; mesquite-thorn scrub and live oak mottes; avoids open areas; breeds and raises young June-November</p>			
Plains spotted skunk	<i>Spilogale putorius interrupta</i>		
<p>catholic; open fields, prairies, croplands, fence rows, farmyards, forest edges, and woodlands; prefers wooded, brushy areas and tallgrass prairie</p>			
Red wolf	<i>Canis rufus</i>	LE	E
<p>extirpated; formerly known throughout eastern half of Texas in brushy and forested areas, as well as coastal prairies</p>			
West Indian manatee	<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	LE	E
<p>Gulf and bay system; opportunistic, aquatic herbivore</p>			

MOLLUSKS

		Federal Status	State Status
False spike mussel	<i>Quadrula mitchelli</i>		T
<p>possibly extirpated in Texas; probably medium to large rivers; substrates varying from mud through mixtures of sand, gravel and cobble; one study indicated water lilies were present at the site; Rio Grande, Brazos, Colorado, and Guadalupe (historic) river basins</p>			
Smooth pimpleback	<i>Quadrula houstonensis</i>	C	T
<p>small to moderate streams and rivers as well as moderate size reservoirs; mixed mud, sand, and fine gravel, tolerates very slow to moderate flow rates, appears not to tolerate dramatic water level fluctuations, scoured bedrock substrates, or shifting sand bottoms, lower Trinity (questionable), Brazos, and Colorado River basins</p>			

BRAZORIA COUNTY

MOLLUSKS

		Federal Status	State Status
Texas fawnsfoot	<i>Truncilla macrodon</i>	C	T
<p>little known; possibly rivers and larger streams, and intolerant of impoundment; flowing rice irrigation canals, possibly sand, gravel, and perhaps sandy-mud bottoms in moderate flows; Brazos and Colorado River basins</p>			

REPTILES

		Federal Status	State Status
Alligator snapping turtle	<i>Macrochelys temminckii</i>		T
<p>perennial water bodies; deep water of rivers, canals, lakes, and oxbows; also swamps, bayous, and ponds near deep running water; sometimes enters brackish coastal waters; usually in water with mud bottom and abundant aquatic vegetation; may migrate several miles along rivers; active March-October; breeds April-October</p>			
Atlantic hawksbill sea turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	LE	E
<p>Gulf and bay system, warm shallow waters especially in rocky marine environments, such as coral reefs and jetties, juveniles found in floating mats of sea plants; feed on sponges, jellyfish, sea urchins, molluscs, and crustaceans, nests April through November</p>			
Green sea turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	LT	T
<p>Gulf and bay system; shallow water seagrass beds, open water between feeding and nesting areas, barrier island beaches; adults are herbivorous feeding on sea grass and seaweed; juveniles are omnivorous feeding initially on marine invertebrates, then increasingly on sea grasses and seaweeds; nesting behavior extends from March to October, with peak activity in May and June</p>			
Gulf Saltmarsh snake	<i>Nerodia clarkii</i>		
<p>saline flats, coastal bays, and brackish river mouthss</p>			
Kemp's Ridley sea turtle	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	LE	E
<p>Gulf and bay system, adults stay within the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico; feed primarily on crabs, but also snails, clams, other crustaceans and plants, juveniles feed on sargassum and its associated fauna; nests April through August</p>			
Leatherback sea turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	LE	E
<p>Gulf and bay systems, and widest ranging open water reptile; omnivorous, shows a preference for jellyfish; in the US portion of their western Atlantic nesting territories, nesting season ranges from March to August</p>			
Loggerhead sea turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	LT	T
<p>Gulf and bay system primarily for juveniles, adults are most pelagic of the sea turtles; omnivorous, shows a preference for mollusks, crustaceans, and coral; nests from April through November</p>			
Texas diamondback terrapin	<i>Malaclemys terrapin littoralis</i>		
<p>coastal marshes, tidal flats, coves, estuaries, and lagoons behind barrier beaches; brackish and salt water; burrows into mud when inactive; may venture into lowlands at high tide</p>			

BRAZORIA COUNTY

REPTILES

		Federal Status	State Status
Texas horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i>		T
open, arid and semi-arid regions with sparse vegetation, including grass, cactus, scattered brush or scrubby trees; soil may vary in texture from sandy to rocky; burrows into soil, enters rodent burrows, or hides under rock when inactive; breeds March-September			
Timber/Canebrake rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus horridus</i>		T
swamps, floodplains, upland pine and deciduous woodlands, riparian zones, abandoned farmland; limestone bluffs, sandy soil or black clay; prefers dense ground cover, i.e. grapevines or palmetto			

PLANTS

		Federal Status	State Status
Coastal gay-feather	<i>Liatris bracteata</i>		
Texas endemic; coastal prairie grasslands of various types, from salty prairie on low-lying somewhat saline clay loams to upland prairie on nonsaline clayey to sandy loams; flowering in fall			
Giant sharpstem umbrella-sedge	<i>Cyperus cephalanthus</i>		
in Texas on saturated, fine sandy loam soils, along nearly level fringes of deep prairie depressions; also in depression area within coastal prairie remnant on heavy black clay; in Louisiana, most sites are coastal prairie on poorly drained sites, some on slightly elevated areas surrounded by standing shallow water, and on moderately drained sites; soils include very strongly acid to moderately alkaline silt loams and silty clay loams; flowering/fruitleting May-June, August-September, and possibly other times in response to rainfall			
Texas meadow-rue	<i>Thalictrum texanum</i>		
Texas endemic; mostly found in woodlands and woodland margins on soils with a surface layer of sandy loam, but it also occurs on prairie pimple mounds; both on uplands and creek terraces, but perhaps most common on claypan savannas; soils are very moist during its active growing season; flowering/fruitleting (January-)February-May, withering by midsummer, foliage reappears in late fall(November) and may persist through the winter			
Texas windmill-grass	<i>Chloris texensis</i>		
Texas endemic; sandy to sandy loam soils in relatively bare areas in coastal prairie grassland remnants, often on roadsides where regular mowing may mimic natural prairie fire regimes; flowering in fall			
Threeflower broomweed	<i>Thurovia triflora</i>		
Texas endemic; near coast in sparse, low vegetation on a veneer of light colored silt or fine sand over saline clay along drier upper margins of ecotone between between salty prairies and tidal flats; further inland associated with vegetated slick spots on prairie mima mounds; flowering September-November			