

FORT BEND COUNTY

AMPHIBIANS

		Federal Status	State Status
Houston toad	<i>Anaxyrus houstonensis</i>	LE	E
<p>endemic; sandy substrate, water in pools, ephemeral pools, stock tanks; breeds in spring especially after rains; burrows in soil of adjacent uplands when inactive; breeds February-June; associated with soils of the Sparta, Carrizo, Goliad, Queen City, Recklaw, Weches, and Willis geologic formations</p>			

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>			
Attwater's Greater Prairie-Chicken	<i>Tympanuchus cupido attwateri</i>	LE	E
<p>this county within historic range; endemic; open prairies of mostly thick grass one to three feet tall; from near sea level to 200 feet along coastal plain on upper two-thirds of Texas coast; males form communal display flocks during late winter-early spring; booming grounds important; breeding February-July</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>			
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>			
Interior Least Tern	<i>Sterna antillarum athalassos</i>	LE	E
<p>subspecies is listed only when inland (more than 50 miles from a coastline); nests along sand and gravel bars within braided streams, rivers; also know to nest on man-made structures (inland beaches, wastewater treatment plants, gravel mines, etc); eats small fish and crustaceans, when breeding forages within a few hundred feet of colony</p>			

FORT BEND COUNTY

BIRDS

		Federal Status	State Status
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	DL	T

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.

Sprague's Pipit	<i>Anthus spragueii</i>	C	
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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.

Western Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia hypugaea</i>		
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open grasslands, especially prairie, plains, and savanna, sometimes in open areas such as vacant lots near human habitation or airports; nests and roosts in abandoned burrows

White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>		T
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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

White-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo albicaudatus</i>		T
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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

Whooping Crane	<i>Grus americana</i>	LE	E
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potential migrant via plains throughout most of state to coast; winters in coastal marshes of Aransas, Calhoun, and Refugio counties

Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>		T
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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

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 oxyrinchus</i>	C	
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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

FORT BEND COUNTY

MAMMALS

		Federal Status	State Status
Louisiana black bear	<i>Ursus americanus luteolus</i>	LT	T
possible as transient; bottomland hardwoods and large tracts of inaccessible forested areas			
Plains spotted skunk	<i>Spilogale putorius interrupta</i>		
catholic; open fields, prairies, croplands, fence rows, farmyards, forest edges, and woodlands; prefers wooded, brushy areas and tallgrass prairie			
Red wolf	<i>Canis rufus</i>	LE	E
extirpated; formerly known throughout eastern half of Texas in brushy and forested areas, as well as coastal prairies			

MOLLUSKS

		Federal Status	State Status
False spike mussel	<i>Quadrula mitchelli</i>		T
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			
Smooth pimpleback	<i>Quadrula houstonensis</i>	C	T
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			
Texas fawnsfoot	<i>Truncilla macrodon</i>	C	T
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			

REPTILES

		Federal Status	State Status
Alligator snapping turtle	<i>Macrochelys temminckii</i>		T
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			
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

FORT BEND COUNTY

REPTILES

Federal Status

State Status

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

Texas prairie dawn

Hymenoxys texana

LE

E

Texas endemic; in poorly drained, sparsely vegetated areas (slick spots) at the base of mima mounds in open grassland or almost barren areas on slightly saline soils that are sticky when wet and powdery when dry; flowering late February-early April

Threeflower broomweed

Thurovia triflora

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