TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE
AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES
OF
GRUS ENGELING
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

A FIELD CHECKLIST
“Act Natural”
Visit a Wildlife Management Area at our Web site:
http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us

Cover: Illustration of American Alligator by Rob Fleming.
HABITAT DESCRIPTION

The Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area is located in the northwest corner of Anderson County, 20 miles northwest of Palestine, Texas, on U.S. Highway 287. The management area contains 10,958 acres of land owned by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Most of the land was purchased in 1950 and 1951, with the addition of several smaller tracts through 1960. It was originally called the Derden Wildlife Management Area, but was later changed to the Engeling Wildlife Management Area in honor of Biologist Gus A. Engeling, who was killed by a poacher on the area in December 1951.

The area is drained by Catfish Creek which is a tributary of the Trinity River. The topography is gently rolling to hilly, with a well-defined drainage system that empties into Catfish Creek. Most of the small streams are spring fed and normally flow the year-round. The soils are mostly light colored, rapidly permeable sands on the upland, and moderately permeable, gray-brown, sandy loams in the bottomland along Catfish Creek. The climate is classified as moist, sub-humid, with an annual rainfall of about 40 inches. The vegetation consists of deciduous forest with an overstory made up of oak, hickory, sweetgum and elm; with associated understory species of dogwood, American beautyberry, huckleberry, greenbrier, etc. Shade-tolerant grasses and forbs make up a sparse cover on the forest floor (see brochure on VEGETATION for a checklist of the plant species found on the management area).

The management area has active bird rookeries, a sphagnum moss bog, and numerous sloughs and marshes along Catfish Creek. Wintering ducks and other waterbirds use the marshes as a wintering sanctuary for food and cover. Catfish Creek contains an abundance of freshwater fishes and other aquatic life.

Other brochures available at the Management Area office include field checklists of VEGETATION, FISHES, BIRDS and MAMMALS.
LEGEND

- Verified occurrence on the wildlife management area.

All other listed species are of probable or possible occurrence (species examined or observed within Anderson County or adjacent counties within the general distribution and habitat of the species).

FTS – Federal Threatened Species (likely to become endangered).
STS – State Threatened Species (likely to become endangered).
SES – State Endangered Species (in danger of extinction).

CHECKLIST

Amphibians – Amphibia

Sirens, Salamanders, Newts & Mudpuppies – Caudata

- Western Lesser Siren
  Small-mouthed Salamander
- Barred Tiger Salamander
- Eastern Tiger Salamander
  Spotted Salamander
  Marbled Salamander
- Central Newt
  Three-toed Amphiuma
  Southern Dusky Salamander
- Dwarf Salamander
  Gulf Coast Waterdog

Siren intermedia nettingi
Ambystoma texanum
Ambystoma tigrinum mavoritum
Ambystoma tigrinum tigrinum
Ambystoma maculatum
Ambystoma opacum
Notophthalmus viridescens
louiseianensis
Amphiuma tridactyllum
Desmognathus auriculatus
Eurycea quadridigitata
Necturus beyeri
### Toads and Frogs – Anura

- Hurter's Spadefoot: *Scaphiopus hurterii*
- Northern Cricket Frog: *Acris crepitans crepitans*
- Green Treefrog: *Hyla cinerea*
- Gray Treefrog: *Hyla versicolor*
- Cope's Gray Treefrog: *Hyla chrysoscelis*
- Spotted Chorus Frog: *Pseudacris clarkii*
- Northern Spring Peeper Strecker's Chorus Frog: *Pseudacris crucifer crucifer*
- Upland Chorus Frog: *Pseudacris streckeri*
- Dwarf American Toad Houston Toad: *Bufo americanus charlesmithi*
  - (FES, 10/13/70; SES, 5/15/75)
- Texas Toad: *Bufo speciosus*
- Coastal Plain Toad: *Bufo nebulifer*
- East Texas Toad: *Bufo woodhousii velatus*
- Southern Crawfish Frog: *Rana areolata areolata*
- Bullfrog: *Rana catesbeiana*
- Bronze Frog: *Rana clamitans clamitans*
- Pickerel Frog: *Rana palustris*
- Southern Leopard Frog: *Rana sphenopephala utricularia*
- Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toad Great Plains Narrow-mouthed Toad: *Gastrophryne carolinensis*
- Gulf Toad: *Gastrophryne olyacea*

### Reptiles – Reptilia

#### Turtles – Testudines

- Eastern Snapping Turtle: *Chelydra serpentina serpentina*
- Alligator Snapping Turtle (STS, 3/1/87)
- Yellow Mud Turtle: *Macrolemys temminckii*
- Mississippi Mud Turtle: *Kinosternon flavescens*
- Razorback Musk Turtle: *Kinosternon subrubrum hippocrepis*
- Great Plains Masked Turtle: *Sternotherus carinatus*
• Stinkpot  
  
  • Eastern River Cooter  
  
  • Red-eared Slider  
  
  • Western Chicken Turtle  
  
  Sabine Map Turtle  

  Mississippi Map Turtle  
  
  • Three-toed Box Turtle  
  
  • Ornate Box Turtle  
  
  • Pallid Spiny Softshell  
  
  Midland Smooth Softshell  

  Crocodilians – Crocodylia  
  
  • American Alligator  
    
    (FTS, 10/12/83)  
    
    Alligator mississippiensis  

  Lizards – Squamata  
  
  Mediterranean Gecko  
  
  • Northern Green Anole  
  
  • Texas Horned Lizard  
    
    (STS, 7/18/77)  
    
    Texas Spiny Lizard  
  
  • Northern Fence Lizard  
  
  • Southern Coal Skink  
  
  • Five-lined Skink  
  
  • Broad-headed Skink  
  
  Southern Prairie Skink  

  • Ground Skink  
  
  Texas Spotted Whiptail  
  
  • Eastern Six-lined Racerunner  
  
  • Western Slender Glass Lizard  

  Hemidactylus turcicus (exotic)  
  
  Anolis carolinensis carolinensis  

  Phrynosoma cornutum  
  
  Sceloporus olivaceus  
  
  Sceloporus undulatus  
  
  hyacinthinus  
  
  Eumeces anthracinus pluvialis  
  
  Eumeces fuscatus  
  
  Eumeces laticeps  
  
  Eumeces septentrionalis  
  
  obtusirostris  
  
  Scincella lateralis  
  
  Cnemidophorus gularis gularis  

  Cnemidophorus sexlineatus sexlineatus  
  
  Ophisaurus attenuatus attenuatus
Snakes – Serpentes

- Texas Blind Snake
- Eastern Yellow-bellied Racer
- Northern Scarlet Snake (STS, 5/1/87)
- Mississippi Ring-necked Snake
- Corn Snake
- Texas Rat Snake
- Western Mud Snake
- Dusty Hog-nosed Snake
- Eastern Hog-nosed Snake
- Texas Night Snake
- Prairie Kingsnake
- Speckled Kingsnake
- Louisiana Milk Snake
- Eastern Coachwhip
- Yellow-bellied Water Snake
- Broad-banded Water Snake
- Northern Diamond-backed Water Snake
- Graham’s Crayfish Snake
- Gulf Crayfish Snake
- Rough Green Snake
- Bull Snake
- Louisiana Pine Snake (STS, 1/30/97)
- Texas Glossy Snake
- Texas Brown Snake
- Florida Red-bellied Snake

- Leptotyphlops dulcis dulcis
- Coluber constrictor flaviventris
- Cemophora coccinea copei
- Diadophis punctatus stictogenys
- Elaphe guttata guttata
- Elaphe obsoletà lindheimeri
- Farancia abacura reinwardtii
- Heterodon nasicus gloydi
- Hypsiglena torquata jani
- Lampropeltis calligaster calligaster
- Lampropeltis getula holbrooki
- Lampropeltis triangulum austra
- Masticophis flagellum flagellum
- Nerodia erythrogaster flavigaster
- Nerodia fasciata confluens
- Nerodia rhombifer rhombifer
- Regina grahamii
- Regina rigidà sinicola
- Opheodrys aestivus
- Pituophis catenifer sayi
- Pituophis ruthveni
- Arizona elegans arenicola
- Storeria dekayi texana
- Storeria occipitomaculata obscura
- Flat-headed Snake
  Marcy's Checkered Garter Snake
  *Tantilla gracilis*

- Orange-striped Ribbon Snake
  Texas Garter Snake
  *Thamnophis proximus proximus*

- Rough Earth Snake
  Western Smooth Earth Snake
  Lined Snake
  Texas Coral Snake
  Southern Copperhead
  *Virginia valeriae elegans*
  *Tropidoclonion lineatum*
  *Micrurus tener tener*
  *Agkistrodon contortrix contortrix*

- Western Cottonmouth
  *Agkistrodon piscivorus leucostoma*

- Western Pigmy Rattlesnake
  Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnake
  *Sistrurus miliarius streckeri*

- Canebrake Rattlesnake
  (STS, 5/1/87)
  *Crotalus atrox*
  *Crotalus horridus atricaudatus*
REFERENCES


**COMPILED BY**
John G. Himes, Ph.D., Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.
Ray C. Telfair II, Ph.D., Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

**CONTRIBUTORS**
W. Frank Blair, Professor (deceased), Department of Zoology, The University of Texas at Austin.
Neil B. Ford, Professor, Science Department, The University of Texas at Austin.
Carl D. Frentress, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.
Frederick R. Gehlbach, Professor, Department of Biology, Baylor University.
Harry H. Haucke, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.
John G. Himes, Ph.D., Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.
Kenneth E. Karlsen, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.
Floyd E. Potter, Jr. (deceased), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.
Dale F. Prochaska, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.
Julie Hogan Rose, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.
J. Dan Scurlock, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.
William B. Stallcup, Professor (retired), School of Humanities and Sciences, Southern Methodist University.
Students (Summer Field Studies Course, 1982–1984, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University).
Texas Herpetological Society (1986 spring field trip).
Kenneth T. Wilkins, Professor, Department of Biology, Baylor University.