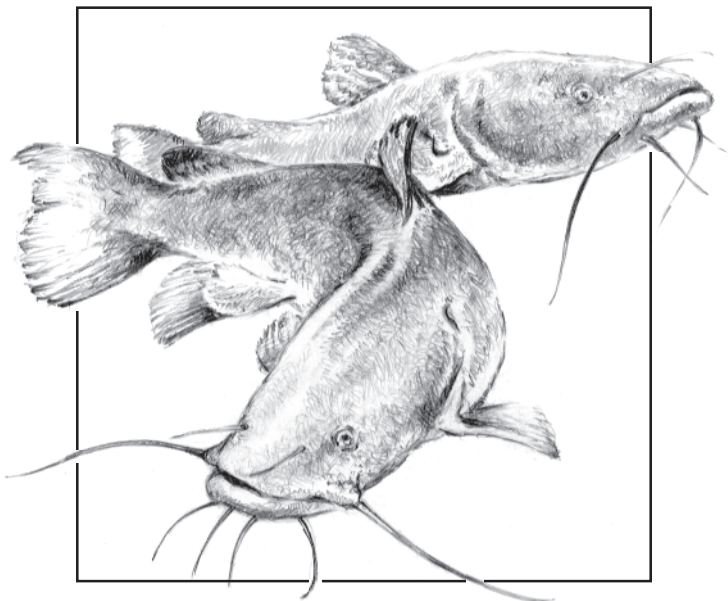


TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

FISHES

OF

GUS 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 Flathead Catfish 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 10,941 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, an eastern tributary in the upper middle basin of the Trinity River. The topography is gently rolling to hilly, with a well-defined spring-fed drainage system of eight branches that empty into Catfish Creek. These streams normally flow year-round and the entire drainage system is flooded annually. Diverse wetland habitats include hardwood bottomland floodplain (2,000 acres), riparian corridors (491 acres), marshes and swamps (356 acres), bogs (272 acres) and several beaver ponds of varying sizes and ages.

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 of oak, hickory, sweetgum and elm; with associated understory species of dogwood, American beautyberry, huckleberry, greenbriar, 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, AMPHIBIANS and REPTILES, BIRDS, and MAMMALS.

LEGEND

(Occurrence/Status)

- - Verified occurrence; all other listed species are of probable or possible occurrence (recorded from Catfish Creek or adjacent Trinity River drainages or within the general distribution and habitat of the species).

STS - State Threatened Species (likely to become endangered).

CHECKLIST

Lampreys - Petromyzontidae

- Southern Brook Lamprey *Ichthyomyzon gagei*

Gars - Lepisosteidae

- Alligator Gar *Atractosteus spatula*
- Spotted Gar *Lepisosteus oculatus*
- Longnose Gar *Lepisosteus osseus*

Bowfins - Amiidae

- Bowfin *Amia calva*

Freshwater Eels - Anguillidae

- American Eel *Anguilla rostrata*

Herrings – Clupeidae

- Gizzard Shad *Dorosoma cepedianum*
- Threadfin Shad *Dorosoma petenense*

Carp and Minnows – Cyprinidae

- Goldfish (exotic) *Carassius auratus*
- Red Shiner *Cyprinella lutrensis*
- Blacktail Shiner *Cyprinella venusta*
- Common Carp (established exotic) *Cyprinus carpio*
- Mississippi Silvery Minnow *Hybognathus nuchalis*
- Pallid Shiner *Hybopsis amnis*
- Ribbon Shiner *Lythrurus fumeus*
- Redfin Shiner *Lythrurus umbratilis*
- Speckled Chub *Macrhybopsis aestivalis*
- Golden Shiner *Notemigonus crysoleucas*
- Blackspot Shiner *Notropis atrocaudalis*
- Ghost Shiner *Notropis buchmanii*
- Weed Shiner *Notropis texanus*
- Mimic Shiner *Notropis volucellus*
- Pugnose Minnow *Opsopoeodus emiliae*
- Suckermouth Minnow *Phenacobius mirabilis*
- Fathead Minnow *Pimephales promelas*
- Bullhead Minnow *Pimephales vigilax*
- Creek Chub *Semotilus atromaculatus*

Suckers – Catostomidae

- River Carpsucker *Carpionodes carpio*
- Creek Chubsucker (STS, 3/1/87) *Erimyzon oblongus*
- Lake Chubsucker *Erimyzon sucetta*
- Smallmouth Buffalo *Ictiobus bubalus*
- Spotted Sucker *Minytrema melanops*
- Blacktail Redhorse *Moxostoma poecilurum*

North American Catfishes – Ictaluridae

- Black Bullhead *Ameiurus melas*
- Yellow Bullhead *Ameiurus natalis*
- Blue Catfish *Ictalurus furcatus*
- Channel Catfish *Ictalurus punctatus*
- Tadpole Madtom *Noturus gyrinus*
- Freckled Madtom *Noturus nocturnus*
- Flathead Catfish *Pylodictus olivaris*

Pikes – Esocidae

- Grass Pickerel *Esox americanus vermiculatus*

Pirate Perches – Aphredoderidae

- Pirate Perch *Aphredoderus sayanus*

New World Silversides – Atherinopsidae

- Brook Silverside *Labidesthes sicculus*
- Inland Silverside *Menidia beryllina*

Topminnows – Fundulidae

- Western Starhead
Topminnow *Fundulus blairae*
- Golden Topminnow *Fundulus chrysotus*
- Blackstripe Topminnow *Fundulus notatus*
- Blackspotted Topminnow *Fundulus olivaceus*

Livebearers – Poeciliidae

- Western Mosquitofish *Gambusia affinis*

Temperate Basses – Moronidae

- White Bass *Morone chrysops*
- Yellow Bass *Morone mississippiensis*

Sunfishes – Centrarchidae

- Flier *Centrarchus macropterus*
- Redbreast Sunfish (introduced) *Lepomis auritus*
- Green Sunfish *Lepomis cyanellus*
- Warmouth *Lepomis gulosus*
- Orangespotted Sunfish *Lepomis humilis*
- Bluegill *Lepomis macrochirus*
- Dollar Sunfish *Lepomis marginatus*
- Longear Sunfish *Lepomis megalotis*
- Redear Sunfish *Lepomis microlophus*
- Spotted Sunfish *Lepomis punctatus*
- Bantam Sunfish *Lepomis symmetricus*
- Spotted Bass *Micropterus punctulatus*
- Largemouth Bass *Micropterus salmoides*
- White Crappie *Pomoxis annularis*
- Black Crappie *Pomoxis nigromaculatus*

Perches – Percidae

- Scaly Sand Darter *Ammocrypta vivax*
- Bluntnose Darter *Etheostoma chlorosoma*
- Slough Darter *Etheostoma gracile*
- Harlequin Darter *Etheostoma histrio*
- Goldstripe Darter *Etheostoma parvipinne*
- Cypress Darter *Etheostoma proeliare*
- Bigscale Logperch *Percina macrolepida*
- Dusky Darter *Percina sciera*

Drums and Croakers – Sciaenidae

- Freshwater Drum *Aplodinotus grunniens*

Pygmy Sunfishes – Elasmomatidae

- Banded Pygmy Sunfish *Ellossoma zonatum*

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