

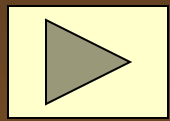
Fur Bearing Animals

Fur-Bearing Animals

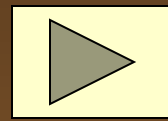
Fur-bearing animals are species of mammals that have value mainly for their pelts.

Trapping any of these species has specific regulations for taking fur-bearers, as identified by the TP&W Department's pamphlet, *Fur-bearing Animal Regulations*.

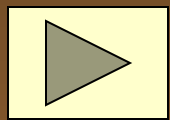
TP&W Department recognizes ten species with specific value for their pelts, including:



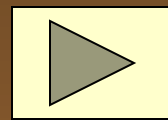
Badger



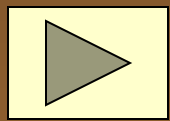
Opossum



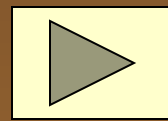
Beaver



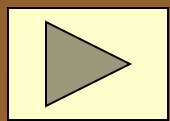
Otter



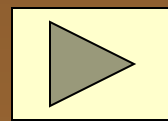
Foxes



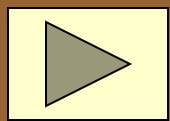
Raccoon



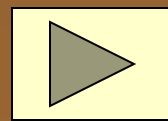
Mink



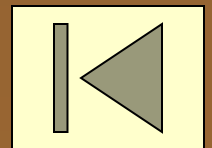
Ring-tailed Cat



Nutria



Skunks



Badger

The badger is found throughout the western half of Texas.

Badger prefer the same habitat as prairie dogs and ground squirrels, which happen to be their principle source of food.

The badger is a member of the weasel family.

The badger has short legs and a broad body with grizzled, grayish-yellow color to its fur.



IMS Photo

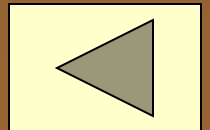
It has a distinct white stripe extending from the near the tip of its nose, over the top of the head, and to the shoulder area.

A white crescent is on each side of the face, just back of the eyes. Another white area is at the base of the ear.



IMS Photo

There is a false impression that badgers hibernate in the winter. They may sleep for several days during inclement weather, but they do not hibernate.



Beaver

Castor canadensis

Beavers are members of the rodent family.

They are aquatic in nature and are found over a large area in Texas.

Beavers need access to water from a pond, stream, or river.

They feed on a wide variety of vegetation, but the inner barks of willows and cottonwoods are preferred.



Photo courtesy of U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Beaver have a large, horizontally flat, and scaly tail.

Their hind feet are webbed and much larger than their front paws.



Photo courtesy of U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

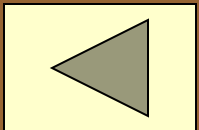
Beaver fur is a dark, rich, chestnut brown color during the fall.

The color fades during the spring.

Body under parts are paler and often have a silvery sheen.



IMS Photo



Desert Fox

Vulpes macrotis

This fox species is native to Brewster, Culbertson, and El Paso counties.

The upper parts of the desert fox body are a buffy gray, while the sides, mid-belly, and undersurface of the tail are a clear buff.

The throat and posterior part of the belly are white.

The tip of the tail is black.

Desert foxes have large ears.

Gray Fox

Urocyon cinereoargenteus

The gray fox is the only fox species found in most counties in Texas.

The exception is the Panhandle region.

The gray fox has grayish upper parts, reddish brown legs, tawny sides, and whitish throat, cheeks, and mid-line of the belly.



Photo by Gary Stolz courtesy of U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The tail has a blackish stripe on the topside and a black tip.



Photo courtesy of U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Swift Fox

Vulpes velox

The swift fox species is the smallest of the American foxes.

It is found in the High Plains of Texas.

The upper parts of their bodies are a pale yellow, frosted with white and lightly washed with blackish hair.



Photo courtesy of Gary Kramer, USDA Natural Resources Conservation

The backs of the swift fox's ears are a yellowish brown and the tail is a buffy gray with a black tip.

There is a black spot at the base of the tail on the upper side.



Photo courtesy of Gary Kramer, USDA Natural Resources Conservation

Red Fox

Vulpes fulva

The red fox is an introduced species to Brazos, Robertson, and Taylor counties in Texas.

It is about the same size as the gray fox.

There is a distinct difference in the cranial characteristics of the two species.



Photo courtesy of U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The upper parts of the body are bright, golden yellow and become darker along the middle of the back.

The tail is a thick bush and has a white tip.

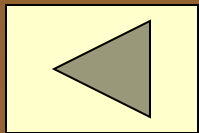


Photo by Jim Thiele courtesy of U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mink

Mustela vison

Mink are native to the eastern half of Texas.

They are a weasel-like animal about the size of a cat.

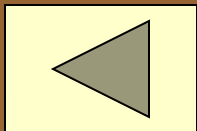
Mink have a dark, chocolate brown color.

There is a white midline on the underside from the chest to the vent.



Photo by Dennis Larson courtesy of USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Mink are semi-aquatic and prefer small streams.



Nutria

Myocastor coypus

The nutria is another introduced species to Texas.

Native to South America, it was brought to the USA in 1938.

Nutria can be found throughout Texas except in the Trans-Pecos and High Plains.

Nutria are members of the rodent family.

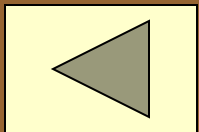


Photo by Christine Eustis courtesy of U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

It closely resembles the beaver, except that it has a long, round, sparsely haired tail.

The unusual thing about the nutria is the mammary glands are near the midline rather than along the abdomen.



Photo by John and Karen Hollingsworth courtesy of U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Opossum

Didelphis virginiana

The opossum is North America's only marsupial.

The Virginia opossum is the only species found north of Mexico.

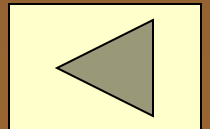
The opossum has a long, scaly prehensile tail which resembles that of the rat.

It has a long, dense fur with grayish and blackish color phases.



IMS Photo

Opossum are nocturnal and are found throughout all but the extreme western part of Texas.



Otter

Lutra canadensis

River otters inhabit a small area in East Texas.

The otter is a large, dark brown weasel with a long slender body. It has a thick, tapering tail.



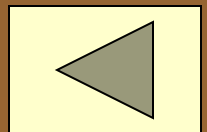
Photo by Gary Stolz courtesy of U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The otter's webbed feet have five toes and the soles are hairy.

They are mostly aquatic.



Photo by Dave Menke courtesy of U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Raccoon

Procyon lotor

The raccoon is one species that is located in every county in Texas.

The blackish facial mask is a key identifying characteristic of raccoons.



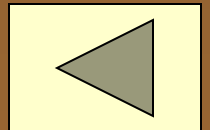
Photo by John and Karen Hollingsworth courtesy of U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The tip of the tail is black and the upper parts of the body are grayish suffused with orange and heavily sprinkled with a blackish buff.



Photo by John Mosesso courtesy of National Biological Information Infrastructure.

Raccoons are nocturnal and will sleep during long periods of inclement weather.



Ring-tailed Cat

Bassariscus astutus

The ringtail roams over most of the state, except extreme South Texas and Northeast Texas.

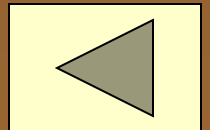
The ringtail resembles a small fox.

It has a raccoon-like tail, banded with 14 to 16, alternating black and white rings. The tail has a black tip.



IMS Photo

Ringtails are another nocturnal species and spend a greater part of days sleeping in their dens.



Hog-nosed Skunk

Conepatus mesoleucus

This skunk species resides in rocky, sparsely timbered areas, such as the Edwards Plateau and the Chisos, Davis, and Guadalupe Mountains of the Trans-Pecos in West Texas.

They can also be found in the Big Thicket area of East Texas.

Hog-nosed skunks have a single, wide, white stripe that extends from the top of their head to the base of the tail.

The hog-nosed skunk's tail is white, long, and bushy with scattered black hairs.

The rest of their body is blackish brown or black.

Hooded Skunk

Mephitis macroura

The hooded skunk is a Mexican species and is found in the Big Bend region of West Texas.

The hooded skunk species has two color patterns.

One appears to be similar to the striped skunk, but with softer fur and a distinct ruff of long hair on the upper neck.

The other color pattern more closely resembles the hog-nosed skunk.

Spotted Skunk (Civet Cat)

The spotted skunk lives in all but a few counties of the Panhandle.

The spotted skunk has a small white spot on its forehead and six distinctive white stripes from head to tail over the top of the body.

Striped Skunk

Mephitis mephitis

The striped skunk species lives in every county in Texas.



The striped skunk has two stripes that join at the neck region and travel down the sides of the back and down each side of the tail.

