

**Amphibians and Reptiles of Cameron County, Texas (83 Species)**

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See also: [Amphibians and Reptiles of Texas. Second Edition.](#)

(<http://www.tamu.edu/upress/BOOKS/2000/dixon.htm>) (2000) by James R. Dixon

**Amphibians and Reptiles for State of Texas (HerpTexas) for Selected Texas Counties:  
Brewster (HerpBrewster), Cameron (HerpCameron), Travis (HerpTravis)**

**AMPHIBIANS:** [Ambystomatidae \(Mole Salamanders\)](#) [Bufonidae \(Toads\)](#) [Hylidae \(Treefrogs and Chorus Frogs\)](#) [Leptodactylidae \(Tropical Frogs\)](#) [Microhylidae \(Narrowmouth Toads\)](#) [Pelobatidae \(Spadefoot Toads\)](#) [Ranidae \(True Frogs\)](#) [Salamandridae \(Newts\)](#) [Sirenidae \(Sirens\)](#)

**REPTILES:** [Anguidae \(Glass and Alligator Lizards\)](#) [Cheloniidae \(Sea Turtles\)](#) [Chelydridae \(Snapping Turtles\)](#) [Colubridae \(Colubrids\)](#) [Crocodilidae \(Crocodilians\)](#) [Dermochelyidae \(Leatherbacks\)](#) [Elapidae \(Coral Snakes and Cobras\)](#) [Emydidae \(Box and Water Turtles\)](#) [Gekkonidae \(Geckos\)](#) [Iguanidae \(Iguanids\)](#) [Kinosternidae \(Musk and Mud Turtles\)](#) [Leptotyphlopidae \(Slender Blind Snakes\)](#) [Scincidae \(Skinks\)](#) [Teiidae \(Whiptails\)](#) [Testudinidae \(Tortoises\)](#) [Trionychidae \(Softshell Turtles\)](#) [Viperidae \(Vipers\)](#)

**Primary Bibliography to Distributions (HerpBibl)**

**Supplementary Bibliography to Notes (HerpBibS)**

**Amphibia (Amphibians)**

**Sirenoidea, Caudata (Urodela) - Salamanders**

**1 Sirenidae (Sirens)**

**2 *Siren intermedia texana* Goin, 1957 Rio Grande siren**

Frost (1985, p. 618) comments that populations along the lower Rio Grand and in adjacent Mexico may represent a species different from *Siren intermedia* Le Conte.

**Ambystomatoidea, Caudata (Urodela) - Salamanders**

**2 Ambystomatidae (Mole Salamanders)**

**7 *Ambystoma tigrinum* (Green, 1825) tiger salamander**

*Ambystoma tigrinum* (Green) has been introduced widely throughout the State (Raun and Gehlbach 1972, p. 2; Dixon 1987, p. 59).

**Salamandroidea, Caudata (Urodela) - Salamanders**

**3 Salamandridae (Newts)**

**8 *Notophthalmus meridionalis* (Cope, 1880) black-spotted newt**

Raun and Gehlbach (1972, p. 3) and Dixon (1987, p. 63) state that a Falls County record is erroneous and question Victoria and Duval County records.

## **Anomocoela, Salientia (Anura) - Frogs and Toads**

### **8 Pelobatidae (Spadefoot Toads)**

**26** *Scaphiopus couchii* Baird, 1854 **Couch's spadefoot**

**27** *Scaphiopus holbrookii* (Harlan, 1835) **eastern spadefoot**

*Scaphiopus holbrookii* (Harlan) includes *Scaphiopus hurterii* Strecker (Wasserman 1968, pp. 70.1-70.2) which Collins (1991, p. 43) recently has resurrected.

## **Procoela, Salientia (Anura) - Frogs and Toads**

### **9 Leptodactylidae (Tropical Frogs)**

**31** *Leptodactylus labialis* (Cope, 1877) **white-lipped frog**

*Leptodactylus labialis* (Cope) includes *L. fragilis* (Brocchi) (Dubois and Heyer 1992, p. 584).

**32** *Syrrophus cystignathoides* (Cope, 1877) **Rio Grande chirping frog**

*Syrrophus cystignathoides* (Cope) includes *S. campi* Stejneger (Lynch 1972, pp. 15-16).

### **10 Hylidae (Treefrogs and Chorus Frogs)**

**35** *Acris crepitans* Baird, 1854 **northern cricket frog**

*Acris crepitans* Baird has been confused with *A. gryllus* (Le Conte) in the literature (Raun and Gehlbach 1972, p. 7).

**38** *Hyla cinerea* (Schneider, 1799) **green treefrog**

Conant (1977, p. 219) describes Cameron County introductions.

**41** *Pseudacris clarkii* (Baird, 1854) **spotted chorus frog**

**45** *Smilisca baudinii* (Duméril & Bibron, 1841) **Mexican treefrog**

Raun and Gehlbach (1972, p. 8) state that a Bexar County record is erroneous.

### **11 Bufonidae (Toads)**

**48** *Bufo debilis* Girard, 1854 **green toad**

**50** *Bufo marinus* (Linnaeus, 1758) **giant toad**

**52** *Bufo speciosus* Girard, 1854 **Texas toad**

*Bufo speciosus* Girard includes *B. compactilis* Wiegmann (Raun and Gehlbach 1972, p. 9).

**53** *Bufo valliceps* Wiegmann, 1833 **Gulf Coast toad**

**55** *Bufo woodhousii* Girard, 1854 **Woodhouse's toad**

## **Diplaciocoela, Salientia (Anura) - Frogs and Toads**

### **12 Ranidae (True Frogs)**

**57** *Rana berlandieri* Baird, 1859 **Rio Grande leopard frog**

*Rana berlandieri* Baird, *blairi* Meham, Littlejohn, Oldham, Brown, & Brown, and *sphenocephala* Cope formerly were considered subspecies of *R. pipiens* (Schreber) and their distributions have not yet been determined completely (Hillis 1981, pp. 312-318).

### **13 Microhylidae (Narrowmouth Toads)**

**66** *Gastrophryne olivacea* (Hallowell, 1856) **Great Plains narrowmouth toad**

*Microhyla* often replaces *Gastrophryne* in the literature (Raun and Gehlbach 1972, p. 11).

**67** *Hypopachus variolosus* (Cope, 1866) **sheep frog**

The San Patricio County record reported in Dixon (1987) should be for Calhoun County (JRD).

## **Reptilia (Reptiles)**

### **Testudines (Chelonia) - Turtles**

#### **15 Kinosternidae (Musk and Mud Turtles)**

**71** *Kinosternon flavescens* (Agassiz, 1857) **yellow mud turtle**

#### **16 Emydidae (Box and Water Turtles)**

**81** *Malaclemys terrapin* (Schoepff, 1793) **diamondback terrapin**

**82** *Pseudemys concinna* (Le Conte, 1830) **river cooter**

Raun and Gehlbach (1972, pp. 12-13) question Brewster and Culberson County records and state that *Pseudemys concinna* (Le Conte) and *P. floridana* (Le Conte) often are confused and that *Chrysemys* sometimes replaces *Pseudemys*.

**84** *Pseudemys gorzugi* Ward, 1984 **Rio Grande cooter**

*Pseudemys gorzugi* Ward formerly was considered a subspecies of *P. concinna* (Le Conte) (Ernst 1990, p. 461.1; Collins 1991, p. 43). *Chrysemys* sometimes replaces *Pseudemys* in the literature (Seidel and Smith 1986, pp. 242-243).

**88** *Terrapene ornata* (Agassiz, 1857) **western box turtle**

*Terrapene ornata* (Agassiz) often is found outside its natural range as a released pet (Raun and Gehlbach 1972, p. 15).

**90** *Trachemys scripta* (Schoepff, 1792) **slider**

*Trachemys scripta* (Schoepff) formerly included *T. gaigeae* (Hartweg) as a subspecies (Ernst 1992, pp. 538.2-538.3). Conant (1977, p. 219) describes Cameron County introductions.

**17 Testudinidae (Tortoises)**

**91** *Gopherus berlandieri* (Agassiz, 1857) **Texas tortoise**

*Gopherus berlandieri* (Agassiz) often is found outside its natural range as a released pet (Raun and Gehlbach 1972, p. 15).

**18 Cheloniidae (Sea Turtles)**

**92** *Caretta caretta* (Linnaeus, 1758) **loggerhead**

**94** *Eretmochelys imbricata* (Linnaeus, 1766) **hawksbill**

**95** *Lepidochelys kempi* (Garman, 1880) **Atlantic ridley**

*Lepidochelys kempi* (Garman) formerly was considered a subspecies of *L. olivacea* (Eschscholtz) (Raun and Gehlbach, p. 15).

**19 Dermochelyidae (Leatherbacks)**

**96** *Dermochelys coriacea* (Linnaeus, 1766) **leatherback**

**20 Trionychidae (Softshell Turtles)**

**98** *Apalone spinifera* (Le Seuer, 1827) **spiny softshell**

Meylan (1987) and Ernst and Barbour (1989, p. 103) refer *Trionyx spiniferus* Le Seuer to *Apalone spinifera* (Le Seuer), but Ernst et al. (1994, pp. 103-104) consider this action premature.

**Crocodylia - Crocodylians**

**21 Crocodylidae (Alligators and Caimans)**

**99** *Alligator mississippiensis* (Daudin, 1803) **American alligator**

Raun and Gehlbach (1972, p. 16) state that *Alligator mississippiensis* (Daudin) often is introduced outside its natural range and question records of former occurrence along the Rio Grande. Conant (1977, p. 219) discusses introductions in Cameron County.

**Sauria (Lacertilia) - Lizards, Squamata - Lizards and Snakes**

**22 Gekkonidae (Geckos)**

**100** *Coleonyx brevis* Stejneger, 1893 **Texas banded gecko**

**105** *Hemidactylus turcicus* (Linnaeus, 1758) **Mediterranean gecko**

*Hemidactylus turcicus* (Linnaeus) has been introduced at many Texas cities (Raun and Gehlbach 1972, p. 17; Conant 1977, p. 219; Dixon 1987, p. 90).

**23 Iguanidae (Iguanids)**

**106** *Anolis carolinensis* (Voigt, 1832) **green anole**

Atascosa, Brown, Cameron, Frio, Hidalgo, Maverick, Menard, Uvalde, and Willacy County records may represent introductions (Raun and Gehlbach 1972, p. 17; Conant 1977, p. 219; Dixon 1987, p. 90).

**107** *Anolis sagrei* Duméril & Bibron, 1837 **brown anole**

*Anolis sagrei* Duméril & Bibron recently has been introduced to Texas (Dixon 1987, p. 90).

**111** *Ctenosaura pectinata* (Wiegmann, 1834) **western spiny-tailed iguana**

*Ctenosaura pectinata* (Wiegmann) has been established by man in Brownsville (Raun and Gehlbach 1972, p. 17; Conant 1977, p. 218; Dixon 1987, p. 92).

**115** *Holbrookia propinqua* Baird & Girard, 1852 **keeled earless lizard**

Raun and Gehlbach (1972, p. 19) and Dixon (1987, p. 93) question a Real County record.

**116** *Phrynosoma cornutum* (Harlan, 1825) **Texas horned lizard**

*Phrynosoma cornutum* (Harlan) often is found outside its natural range as a released pet (Raun and Gehlbach 1972, p. 18).

**121** *Sceloporus grammicus* Wiegmann, 1828 **mesquite lizard**

Dixon (1987, p. 96) states that Kleberg and Refugio County records represent introductions.

**124 *Sceloporus olivaceus* Smith, 1934 Texas spiny lizard**

Raun and Gehlbach (1972, p. 19) state that *Sceloporus olivaceus* Smith formerly was included in *S. spinosus* Wiegmann and was confused with *S. undulatus* (Latreille). They and Dixon (1987, p. 19) question East Texas records.

**126 *Sceloporus undulatus* (Latreille, 1802) eastern fence lizard**

*Sceloporus olivaceus* Smith and *S. undulatus* (Latreille) often are confused in the literature (Raun and Gehlbach 1972, p. 19).

**127 *Sceloporus variabilis* Wiegmann, 1834 rosebelly lizard**

Raun and Gehlbach (1972, p. 20) and Dixon (1987, p. 98) state Dallas, El Paso, and Lee County records are erroneous.

**128 *Urosaurus ornatus* (Baird & Girard, 1852) tree lizard**

**24 Scincidae (Skinks)**

**134 *Eumeces obsoletus* (Baird & Girard, 1852) Great Plains skink**

**136 *Eumeces tetragrammus* (Baird, 1858) four-lined skink**

*Eumeces tetragrammus* (Baird) includes *E. brevilineatus* Cope (Lieb 1990, p. 492.2). Raun and Gehlbach (1972, p. 21-22) and Dixon (1987, p. 101) question Baylor, Brewster, Burnet, Cooke, Henderson, and Limestone County records.

**25 Teiidae (Whiptails)**

**140 *Cnemidophorus gularis* Baird & Girard, 1852 Texas spotted whiptail**

*Cnemidophorus exsanguis* Lowe, *C. gularis* Baird & Girard, and *C. sacki* Wiegmann often are confused (Raun and Gehlbach 1972, p. 22). Dixon (1987, p. 103) questions Anderson, Cass, Harrison, Henderson, and Morris County records.

**142 *Cnemidophorus laredoensis* McKinney, Kay, & Anderson, 1973 Laredo striped whiptail**

**145 *Cnemidophorus sexlineatus* (Linnaeus, 1766) six-lined racerunner**

**26 Anguidae (Glass and Alligator Lizards)**

**150 *Ophisaurus attenuatus* Cope, 1880 slender glass lizard**

*Ophisaurus attenuatus* Cope originally was described as a subspecies of *O. ventralis* (Linnaeus) (Raun and Gehlbach 1972, p. 24; Dixon 1987, p. 106). Dixon (1987, p. 106) questions a Kerr County record.

**Serpentes (Ophidia) - Snakes, Squamata - Lizards and Snakes**

**27 Leptotyphlopidae (Slender Blind Snakes)**

**151 *Leptotyphlops dulcis* (Baird & Girard, 1853) Texas blind snake**

Dixon (1987, p. 107) questions a Montgomery County record.

**28 Colubridae (Colubrids)**

**153 *Arizona elegans* Kennicott, 1859 glossy snake**

**157 *Coluber constrictor* Linnaeus, 1758 racer**

Raun and Gehlbach (1972, p. 25) question a Real County record.

**158 *Coniophanes imperialis* (Baird, 1859) black-striped snake**

**160 *Drymarchon corais* (Boie, 1827) indigo snake**

**161 *Drymobius margaritiferus* (Schlegel, 1837) speckled racer**

*Drymobius margaritiferus* (Schlegel) may be extirpated from Cameron County (Raun and Gehlbach 1972, p. 26), though B. Whitney observed three specimens in 1981 (Tennant 1984, p. 312). Dixon (1987, p. 111) questions Hidalgo and Kleberg County records.

**163 *Elaphe guttata* (Linnaeus, 1766) corn snake**

**164 *Elaphe obsoleta* (Say, 1823) rat snake**

Raun and Gehlbach (1972, p. 26) and Dixon (1987, p. 112) question Culberson and Reeves County records. Dixon (1987, p. 112) confirms a Cameron County record.

**166 *Ficimia streckeri* Taylor, 1931 Mexican hooknose snake**

*Ficimia streckeri* Taylor formerly was considered a subspecies of *F. olivacea* Gray (Tennant 1984, p. 233).

**168 *Heterodon nasicus* Baird & Girard, 1852 western hognose snake**

Records of *Heterodon nasicus* Baird & Girard in Bowie, Calhoun, Comal, Coryell, Goliad, Hays, Limestone, and Montgomery Counties actually represent *H. platirhinus* Latreille (pers. comm. D.R. Platt).

**173 *Lampropeltis getula* (Linnaeus, 1766) common kingsnake**

**174 *Lampropeltis triangulum* (Lacepède, 1788) milk snake**

*Lampropeltis triangulum* (Lacepède) includes *L. doliata* (Linnaeus) (Raun and Gehlbach 1972, p. 28).

**175 *Leptodeira septentrionalis* (Kennicott, 1859) cat-eyed snake**

Dixon (1987, p. 117) questions a Kleberg County record.

**177 *Masticophis flagellum* (Shaw, 1802) coachwhip**

**178 *Masticophis schotti* Baird & Girard, 1853 Schott's whipsnake**

*Masticophis schotti* Baird & Girard formerly was considered a subspecies of *M. taeniatus* (Hallowell) (Camper and Dixon 1994, pp. 1 & 33-35; Camper 1996, p. 638.2).

**182 *Nerodia erythrogaster* (Forster, 1771) plainbelly water snake**

*Nerodia erythrogaster* (Forster) includes *Natrix erythrogaster* (Forster) (Rossman and Eberle 1977, p. 42). Raun and Gehlbach (1972, p. 29) question a Cameron County record and Dixon (1987, p. 118) questions a Starr County record.

**183 *Nerodia fasciata* (Linnaeus, 1766) southern water snake**

*Nerodia fasciata* includes *Natrix fasciata* (Rossman and Eberle 1977, p. 42) and once was considered a race of *N. sipedon* (Linnaeus) (Raun and Gehlbach 1972, p. 30). Conant (1977, pp. 217-218) states that Cameron County records are introductions.

**185 *Nerodia rhombifer* (Hallowell, 1852) diamondback water snake**

*Nerodia rhombifer* (Hallowell) includes *Natrix rhombifer* (Hallowell) (Rossman and Eberle 1977, p. 42).

**187 *Opheodrys aestivus* (Linnaeus, 1766) rough green snake**

Raun and Gehlbach (1972, p. 30) state the Armstrong and El Paso County records are erroneous.

**188 *Pituophis melanoleucus* (Daudin, 1803) bullsnake**

*Pituophis melanoleucus* (Daudin) includes western races once assigned to *P. catenifer* (Blainville) (Smith and Kennedy 1951, p. 96) and formerly included *P. ruthveni* Stull (Collins 1991, p. 43; Reichling 1995, p. 194).

**192 *Rhinocheilus lecontei* Baird & Girard, 1853 longnose snake**

**194 *Salvadora grahamiae* Baird & Girard, 1853 mountain patchnose snake**

*Salvadora grahamiae* Baird & Girard includes *S. lineata* Schmidt (Raun and Gehlbach 1972, p. 31).

**195 *Sonora semiannulata* Baird & Girard, 1853 ground snake**

*Sonora semiannulata* Baird & Girard includes *S. episcopa* (Kennicott) (Tennant 1984, pp. 114-115).

**196 *Storeria dekayi* (Holbrook, 1842) brown snake**

*Storeria dekayi* (Holbrook) includes *S. tropica* Cope (Raun and Gehlbach 1972, p. 32). Dixon (1987, p. 124) states that Crosby and Lubbock County records may be introductions.

**200 *Tantilla gracilis* Baird & Girard, 1853 flathead snake**

Dixon (1987, p. 125) questions Brewster, Hale, Kent, Lamb, and Randall County records.

**202 *Tantilla nigriceps* Kennicott, 1860 plains blackhead snake**

Raun and Gehlbach (1972, p. 33) and Dixon (1987, p. 125) question a McLennan County record.

**203 *Thamnophis cyrtopsis* (Kennicott, 1860) blackneck garter snake**

Raun and Gehlbach (1972, p. 33) and Dixon (1987, p. 126) state that a Cameron County record is erroneous and question a McLennan County record.

**204 *Thamnophis marciatus* (Baird & Girard, 1853) checkered garter snake**

**205 *Thamnophis proximus* (Say, 1823) western ribbon snake**

*Thamnophis proximus* (Say) formerly was considered a subspecies of *T. sauritus* (Linnaeus) (Rossman 1962, pp. 741 & 747; Raun and Gehlbach 1972, p. 34).

**29 Elapidae (Coral Snakes and Cobras)**

**212 *Micrurus fulvius* (Linnaeus, 1766) North American coral snake**

Raun and Gehlbach (1972, p. 35) and Dixon (1987, p. 130) question a Reeves County record. They and Degenhardt et al. (1996, p. 339) state that Texas records of *Micruroides euryxanthus* (Kennicott) are erroneous.

**30 Viperidae (Vipers)**

**214 *Agkistrodon piscivorus* (Lacepède, 1789) cottonmouth**

Raun and Gehlbach (1972, p. 35), Conant (1977, p. 219), and Dixon (1987, p. 131) question Cameron, Fisher, Maverick, Sterling, and Val Verde County records.

**215 *Crotalus atrox* Baird & Girard, 1853 western diamondback rattlesnake**

Dixon (1987, p. 131) states that a Jefferson County record is erroneous.

**221 *Sistrurus catenatus* (Rafinesque, 1818) massasauga**