

Vertebrates, Lower Rio Grande

This list of vertebrates, excluding birds and fish, is found at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge (south of Alamo) and is taken from information provided by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. These animals are typical of those found along the Lower Rio Grande

Notes:

E = Endangered species (Federal U.S. listed)

I = Introduced species

This list has 12 Amphibians, 35 Reptiles, and 45 Mammals.

Notably absent are White-tailed Deer (which were presumably hunted out early on along the river, but are still abundant in the ranch country) and Rattlesnakes (which presumably found the lands adjacent to the river too wet during the frequent floods before the advent of dams stopped the flooding, and which become common in the brush country inland 10 to 20 miles from the Rio Grande).

Amphibians: 21 amphibian species breed in the LRGV, including 18 frog and toad species (25% of the U.S. species) breed in the LRGV.

Turtles: 11 species of turtles occur in the LRGV.

Crocodylians: 1 species (American Alligator)

Lizards: 21 species

Snakes: 33 species

Mammals: 83 species, including onshore dolphins; another 6 may be found far offshore. Cats that may be seen are bobcat, ocelot, and jaguarundi. Cougars are rare. Jaguars have been eliminated. All the cats are secretive and shy. The bobcat is the only one that is a common resident. Along with the coyote, bobcats seen at a distance (often on a trail or in a clearing) do not show fear, and tend to stare at the intruder, before slinking off into the brush.

Amphibians, Lower Rio Grande

Salamanders

Rio Grande Lesser Siren, *Siren intermedia texana*

Black-spotted Newt, *Notophthalmus meridionalis*

Frogs and Toads

Couch's Spadefoot, *Scaphiopus couchi*

Rio Grande Chirping Frog, *Syrhophus cystignathoides campi*

Green Treefrog, *Hyla cinerea* **I**

Mexican Treefrog, *Smilisca baudinii*
Grant Toad, *Bufo marinus*
Texas Toad, *Bufo speciosus*
Gulf Coast Toad, *Bufo valliceps valliceps*
Rio Grande Leopard Frog, *Rana berlandieri*
Great Plains Narrowmouth Toad, *Gastrophryne olivacea*
Sheep Frog, *Hypopachus variolatus*

Reptiles, Lower Rio Grande

Turtles

Yellow Mud Turtle, *Kinosternon flavescens flavescens*
Ornate Box Turtle, *Terapene ornate ornata*
Red-eared Slider, *Trachemis scripta elegans*
Texas Tortoise, *Gopherus berlandieri*
Texas Spiny Softshell, *Tionyx spiniferus emoryi*

Lizards

Mediterranean Gecko, *Hemidactylus turcicus I*
Green Anole, *Anolis carolinensis I*
Texas Horned Lizard, *Phrynosoma cornutum*
Mesquite Lizard, *Trionyx spiniferus emoryi microlepidotus*
Texas Spiny Lizard, *Sceloporus olivaceus*
Southern Prairie Lizard, *Sceloporus undulates consbrinus*
Rosebelly Lizard, *Sceloporus variabilis marmoratus*
Four-lined Skink, *Eumeces t. tetragrammus*
Ground Skink, *Scincella lateralis*
Texas Spotted Whiptail, *Cnemidophorus gularis gularis*
Laredo Striped Whiptail, *Cnemidophorus laredoensis*

Snakes

Plains Blind Snake, *Leptotyphlops dulcis dulcis*
Texas Glossy Snake, *Arizona elegans arenicola*
Mexican Racer, *Coluber constrictor oaxaca*
Black-Striped Snake, *Coniophanes imperialis imperialis*
Texas Indigo Snake, *Drymarchon corais erebennus*
Speckled Racer, *Drymobius m. margaritiferus*
Great Plains Rat Snake, *Elaphe guttata emoryi*
Mexican Hooknose Snake, *Ficimia streckeri*
Western Coachwhip, *Mastecophis flagellum testaceus*
Ruthven's Whipsnake, *Masticophis taeniatus ruthveni*
Diamondback Water Snake, *Nerodia rhombifera rhombifera*
Western Rough Green Snake, *Opheodrys aestivus majalis*
Bullsnake, *Pituaphis melanoleus sayi*
Texas Patchnose Snake, *Salvadora grahamiae lineata*
Taylor's Ground Snake, *Sonora semiannulata taylori*
Texas Brown Snake, *Storeria dekayi texana*
Checkered Garter Snake, *Thamnophis marcianus marcianus*
Gulf Coast Ribbon Snake, *Thamnophis proximus orarius*

Texas Coral Snake, *Micrurus fulvius tenere*

Mammals, Lower Rio Grande

Marsupials

Virginia Opossum, *Didelphis virginiana californica*

Insectivores

Least Shrew, *Cryptotis parva berlandieri*

Bats

Peter's Ghost-faced Bat, *Mormoops m. megalophylla*

Mexican Long-tongued Bat, *Choeronycteris mexicana*

Cave Myotis, *Myotis velifer incautus*

Eastern Pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus subflavus subflavus*

Big Brown Bat, *Eptesicus fuscus fuscus*

Evening Bat, *Nycticeius humeralis mexicanus*

Northern Yellow Bat, *Lasiurus intermedius intermedius*

Red Bat, *Lasiurus borealis borealis*

Hoary Bat, *Lasiurus cinereus cinereus*

Pallid Bat, *Antrozous pallidus obscurus*

Mexican Free-tailed Bat, *Tadarida brasiliensis mexicana*

Armadillos

Nine-banded Armadillo, *Dasyus novemcinctus mexicanus*

Hares and Rabbits

Eastern Cottontail, *Sylvilagus floridanus chapmani*

Black-tailed Jackrabbit, *Lepus californicus merriami*

Rodents

Mexican Ground Squirrel, *Spermophilus mexicanus parvidens*

Fox Squirrel, *Sciurus niger* **I**

Hispid Pocket Mouse, *Chaetodipus hispidus hispidus*

Mexican Spiny Pocket Mouse, *Liomys irroratus texensis*

Beaver, *Castor canadensis mexicanus*

Coues' Rice Rat, *Oryzomys palustris couesi*

Fulvous Harvest Mouse, *Reithrodontomys julvescens intermedius*

White-footed Mouse, *Peromyscus leucopus texanus*

Northern Pygmy Mouse, *Maiomys taylori taylori*

Hispid Cotton Rat, *Sigmodon hispidus berlandieri*

South Plains Wood Rat, *Neotoma micropus micropus*

Black Rat, *Rattus rattus* **I**

Norway rat, *Rattus norvegicus* **I**

House Mouse, *Mus musculus* **I**

Nutria, *Myocastor coypus* **I**

Carnivores

Coyote, *Canis latrans microdon*

Gray Fox, *Urocyon cinereoargenteus scottii*

Ringtail, *Bassariscus astutus flavus*

Raccoon, *Procyon lotor fuscipes*

Long-tailed Weasel, *Mustela frenata frenata*

Badger, *Taxidea taxus berlandieri*
Eastern Spotted Skunk, *Spilogale putorius interrupta*
Striped Skunk, *Mephitis mephitis varians*
Mountain Lion, *Felis concolor*
Ocelot, *Felis pardalis albescens* **E**
Jaguarundi, *Felis yagouaroundi cacomitli* **E**
Bobcat, *Felis rufus texensis*

Hooved Mammals

Feral Hog, *Sus scrofa* **I**
Collared Peccary, Javelina, *Dicotyles tajacu angulatus*

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