

Blackland Prairies

Coyote	Habitat	Diet
	<p>The adaptability of the Coyote and its acute sense of survival make it difficult to identify its preferred habitat, though they typically are associated with open plains in the West and brushy areas in the East. Their opportunistic nature allows them the advantage of being able to survive in a rapidly changing environment. Weight, on average, is 25 to 40 pounds.</p>	<p>Coyotes will eat just about anything. They feed primarily on rabbits, rodents and insects, but also eat carrion, lizards, snakes, fruit, vegetable matter and even fish.</p>
Black-tailed Prairie Dog	Habitat	Diet
	<p>Prairie dogs are native to the shortgrass prairies in Western North America. They avoid heavy brush and tall grasses due to the reduced visibility these habitats impose.</p>	<p>A Prairie Dog's diet is mostly made up of seeds, stems, roots and leaves of forbs (flowering plants), as well as grasses and weeds. They sometimes also eat grasshoppers, beetles and other insects.</p>
Black-tailed Jackrabbit	Habitat	Diet
	<p>Black-tailed Jackrabbits can be found in brushlands, prairies and meadows. They often are associated with pastures grazed by livestock. Unlike other animals that need dense brush cover, jackrabbits use the high visibility of pasturelands to spot predators first before the predators can they spot them.</p>	<p>During spring and summer, the animals feed on clover, alfalfa and other abundant greens. During the lean fall and winter months, they subsist on woody and dried vegetation.</p>

Nine-banded Armadillo	Habitat	Diet
	<p>Nine-banded Armadillos are found in all but the western Trans-Pecos region of Texas. They live in a variety of habitats including brush, woods, scrub and grasslands. Their body length is 15 to 17 inches and their tail is 14 to 16 inches long. The animals generally weigh eight to 17 pounds.</p>	<p>Nine-banded Armadillos eats insects and other invertebrates. They are skilled at digging for grubs and occasionally eat berries and bird eggs.</p>
Ferruginous Hawk	Habitat	Diet
	<p>This hawk primarily is found on grassy prairies, dry mesas and habitats that support many rodents and rabbits. It is the largest hawk in North America</p>	<p>Rodents, cottontails and jackrabbits are the main fare of the Ferruginous Hawk, but they also will eat bats, bullsnakes, lizards and meadowlarks.</p>
Northern Mockingbird	Habitat	Diet
	<p>Mockingbirds are one of the few birds found in every kind of habitat, from desert to forest to city. The Northern Mockingbird, a medium-sized songbird.</p>	<p>Insects, fruit, crustaceans and small vertebrates make up the mockingbird's diet. The fact that they enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables hasn't exactly made them gardeners' friends either.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Monarch</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Habitat</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Diet</p>
	<p>Monarchs are found all over Texas. They occur wherever milkweeds grow. Adult monarch butterflies are orange with black veins and white spotted wing borders.</p>	<p>Adults feed on flower nectar. Caterpillars feed on plant leaves, preferring milkweeds and dogbanes.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Virginia Opossum</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Habitat</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Diet</p>
	<p>Opossums can be found statewide except with the exception of the arid Trans- Pecos and Llano Estacado of the Panhandle. Opossums are cat-sized mammals with a pointed snout, grayish fur, small ears and a long, scaly tail.</p>	<p>Opossums have an eclectic diet and will eat both plants and animals including rodents, young rabbits, birds, insects, crustaceans, frogs, fruits, berries and vegetables.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Ringtail</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Habitat</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Diet</p>
 <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;">Ringtail (Bassariscus astutus). Photo courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife.</p>	<p>Ringtails are distributed statewide, but uncommon in lower Rio Grande and Coastal Plains of southern Texas. The Ringtail is a cat-sized carnivore resembling a small fox with a long raccoon like tail.</p>	<p>Ringtails eat a wide variety of foods. Birds, rodents, carrion, reptiles, amphibians and insects such as grasshoppers and crickets form the bulk of their diet. They also eat native fruits and berries.</p>