

Coastal Wetlands

Whooping Crane	Habitat	Diet
	<p>Whooping Cranes spend the winter on the 22,500 acres of salt flats and marshes at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. There the coastal prairie rolls gently and is dotted with swales and ponds. The birds summer and nest in poorly drained wetlands in Canada's Northwest Territories at Wood Buffalo National Park.</p> <p>Height: 5 feet (1.5 m) Wingspan: 7.5 feet (2.3 m)</p>	<p>Whooping Cranes eat crabs, clams, crayfish, snails, minnows, frogs, larval insects and leeches. Occasionally, they also eat voles, lemmings and shrews. Sometimes they eat acorns and small fruit.</p>
Common Raccoon	Habitat	Diet
	<p>Raccoons prefer brushy or wooded areas near streams, lakes or swamps, but they can live close to developed areas if sufficient food, water and cover are provided.</p> <p>Length: 33 to 45 in. (84 to 104.5 cm) Weight: 7 to 20 pounds (3 to 9 kg)</p>	<p>The diet for raccoons include fruits and nuts, insects and aquatic invertebrates, fish, small rodents, frogs, bird eggs, carrion and human garbage.</p>
Texas Diamondback Terrapin	Habitat	Diet
	<p>Diamondback Terrapins prefer brackish or salt water. They are the only turtles found in estuaries, tidal creeks and saltwater marshes where the salinity is close to that of the ocean.</p> <p>Shell length: Females: 6 to 9 inches (15 to 22 cm) Males: 4 to 5.5 inches (10 to 14 cm)</p>	<p>The animals eat crabs, shrimp, bivalves, fish and insects.</p>

Blue Crab	Habitat	Diet
	<p>Blue crabs are bottom dwellers in every type of habitat — from the salty Gulf to the fresher water in back bays and estuaries and in both low tide line to waters as deep as 120 feet (36 m).</p> <p>Width: Carapace (or shell) is about 7 inches (17.8 cm) wide and 4 inches (10.2 cm) long.</p> <p>Weight: 1 to 2 pounds (0.45 to 0.9 kg).</p>	<p>Blue Crabs eat clams, oysters and mussels, as well as almost any vegetable or animal matter, preferably freshly dead or freshly-caught food. They sometimes even eat young crabs.</p>
Northern Harrier	Habitat	Diet
	<p>The Northern Harrier prefers coastal prairies, marshes, grasslands, swamps and other open areas.</p> <p>Height: Males: 16 to 18 inches (40 to 45 cm) Females: 20 inches (50 cm)</p> <p>Wingspan: Males: 3 feet (0.9 m) Females: 4 feet (1.2 m)</p>	<p>Diet includes small rodents (mice and voles), amphibians, small reptiles, small rabbits and other birds, as well as some invertebrates.</p>
Gulf Salt Marsh Snake	Habitat	Diet
	<p>Just as the name indicates, Gulf Salt Marsh Snakes prefer brackish and saltwater estuaries, salt marshes and tidal mud flats.</p> <p>Length: 15 to 30 inches (38 to 76 cm)</p>	<p>These snakes eat small fish, crabs, shrimp and other invertebrates.</p>

Roseate Spoonbill	Habitat	Diet
	<p>From March through October, Roseate Spoonbills prefer the bays, marshes and estuaries along the Gulf Coast. Occasionally, they will travel inland through the eastern third of Texas. In the winter, most migrate to Central and South America.</p> <p>Height: 32 inches (81 cm)</p> <p>Wingspan: 50 inches (127 cm)</p>	<p>Roseate Spoonbills primarily eat small fish and crustaceans.</p>
Spotted Seatrout	Habitat	Diet
	<p>Spotted Seatrout prefer shallow bays and estuaries with oyster and seagrass beds that attract prey species.</p> <p>Length: Males: average 19 inches (48 cm) Females: 25 inches (63 cm)</p> <p>Weight: Males & Females: 2 to 3 pounds (1 to 1.3 kg)</p>	<p>Small trout feed primarily on small crustaceans. Medium-size trout feed on shrimp and small fish. Large fish feed almost exclusively on other fish.</p>
Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle	Habitat	Diet
	<p>Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtles prefer open ocean and Gulf waters. Only females come ashore to lay eggs in the beach sand. Young turtles float on large mats of sargassum (a type of brown algae) in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean.</p> <p>Length: 27 to 32 inches (68 to 82 cm)</p> <p>Weight: 75 to 100 pounds (33 to 45 kg)</p>	<p>These turtles eat crabs, clams, jellyfish, shrimp, sea stars and fish.</p>