

Lizards



Spotted Whiptail

Aspidoscelis gularis

Average Length: 6.5-11 in
These brightly colored lizards are named for the spots lining their sides. They are capable of big bursts of speed and are a common sight in summer.

Lizards



Little Brown Skink

Scincella lateralis

Average Length: 3-5.5 in
Our smallest lizard on average, these skinks spend most of their time under leaf-litter. These tiny lizards are also known as the "ground skink."

Green Anole

Anolis carolinensis

Average Length: 5-8 in

Often seen in bushes and trees, anoles are adept climbers. In pet stores they are often called "chameleons," but anoles can only change color from green to brown.



American Five-Lined Skink

Plestiodon fasciatus

Average Length: 5-8.5 in

These toothy skinks can be very difficult to distinguish from female and juvenile Broad-Headed Skinks. These are the more common of the two.



Texas Spiny Lizard

Sceloporus olivaceus

Average Length: 7.5-11 in

Common across all of Texas, these lizards are often seen on trees and fence posts. While their backs are well camouflaged, the males have bright blue streaks on their belly.



Prairie Lizard

Sceloporus consobrinus

Average Length: 4-7.5 in

A close relative of the Eastern Fence Lizard, and maybe just a subspecies. Similar to the Texas Spiny Lizard, but with more vivid blue on the underside. Favors open habitats.



Mediterranean House Gecko

Hemidactylus terciois

Average Length: 4-6 in

An invasive Eurasian species, introduced in the 20th century. They are more widespread than the two native geckos which live on the Mexican border.



Broad Headed Skink

Plestiodon laticeps

Average Length: 6-13 in

Males of this species have a distinct orange arrow-shaped head. Females and juveniles are similar to five-lined skinks. Contrary to folklore, skinks are all non-venomous.



Waco Mammoth National Monument



Snakes and Lizards

The snakes and lizards of Waco Mammoth National Monument are an important part of the natural history of this site. When we are in a National Park or Monument we promise to not harass or harm wildlife in any way.

Remember: This is their habitat and you are a guest.

If you see a snake:

DO:

- Give it space.
- Stay calm.
- Wait for it to move.
- Inform a Ranger.

DO NOT:

- Try to touch it.
- Panic.
- Try to harm it.
- Try to move it.

Venomous Snakes

Broad-Banded Copperhead

Agkistrodon laticinctus

Average Length: 20-36 in

These cryptic snakes are very common at Waco Mammoth. While they are venomous, their bites are rarely fatal. They are an important predator of rodents.



Texas Coral Snake

Micrurus tener

Average Length: 24-46 in

This shy, colorful snake is more closely related to cobras than the other venomous snakes in Texas. Its primary prey are other burrowing snakes, which it hunts underground using its paralytic venom.



Venomous Snakes, contd.



Western Diamondback Rattlesnake

Crotalus atrox

Average Length: 4-6 ft

An iconic prairie snake that rattles when it's angry. Rattlers prefer open areas and are rarely seen at WMNM.

Western Massasauga

Sistrurus catenatus tergeminus

Average Length: 18-26 in

This small cousin of the rattlesnake is fond of prairies and woodland edges. It's declining in some of its range.



Non-Venomous Snakes



Texas Brown Snake

Storeria dekayi texana

Average Length: 10-17 in

These small snakes feed mostly on slugs, snails and earthworms. They live under logs and other forest debris. Texas Brown Snakes give birth to live young.

Rough Green Snake

Opheodrys aestivus

Average Length: 30-45 in

This thin, vibrant snake spends most of its time in trees hunting insects. Unlike many snakes, these are active during the day.



Non-Venomous Snakes



Western Ribbon Snake

Thamnophis proximus

Average Length: 20-30 in

A common species of garter snake in Central Texas. Ribbon snakes eat only cold-blooded animals like insects, minnows, small frogs, and tadpoles.

Coachwhip

Masticophis flagellum

Average Length: 5-8 ft

These thin snakes can move incredibly quickly, giving rise to the myth that they chase people down and bite them. Their color will vary to match their habitat.



Non-Venomous Snakes



Texas Ratsnake

Pantherophis obsoletus (lindheimeri)

Average Length: 4-5 ft

This beneficial snake might just be a color morph of the western ratsnake. It's the most common large snake in Central Texas.



Rough Earth Snake

Haldea striatula

Average Length: 7-10 in

This little burrowing snake is rarely seen except when rains drive it to the surface. It eats mostly invertebrates and gives birth to live young. It's preyed on by coral snakes.



Eastern Hognose Snake

Heterodon platirhinos

Average Length: 25-30 in

These snakes puff up their neck like a cobra when frightened, but are not venomous. These snakes prey on toads and have grown immune to toad toxin.

Great Plains Ratsnake

Pantherophis emoryi

Average Length: 3-5 ft

This constrictor is often attracted to rats and mice that invade farms. It will imitate a venomous rattlesnake by shaking its tail when threatened.



Texas Blind Snake

Rena dulcis

Average Length: 7-10 in

These tiny snakes can easily be mistaken for earthworms. Because they spend so much time burrowing, these snakes have almost lost their eyes. They eat ant and termite larvae.



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