



Texas Coral Snake, *Micrurus fulvius tener*. This species averages 20 inches (record 47 inches). Slender, brightly colored snake with red, black and yellow bands that completely encircle the body. Red and yellow color touch.

Additional, more in depth information on snakes of Texas, in particular the venomous species, can be found in the following publications:

Conant, Roger & Joseph T. Collins. 1998. A Field Guide to Reptile and Amphibians: Eastern and Central North America. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, Massachusetts.

Dixon, James R. 1987. Amphibians and Reptiles of Texas. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, Texas. (2nd Edition 2000).

Price, Andrew. 1998. Poisonous Snakes of Texas. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Distributed by University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas.

Tenant, Alan. 1998. A Field Guide to Texas Snakes. Gulf Publishing Company, Houston, Texas.

Werler, John E. & James R. Dixon. 2000. Texas Snakes: Identification, Distribution, and Natural History. University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas.

Venomous Snakes of East Texas

Written by: Gordon B. Henley, Jr. Zoo Director

Photos by: Celia K. Falzone, General Curator

Editorial Assistance provided by:
J. Colin Crawford, Education Assistant

Provided as a Public Service
by

**Ellen Trout Zoo
402 Zoo Circle
Lufkin, TX 75904**



Venomous Snakes of East Texas

With Emphasis on Angelina County

Venomous Snakes of East Texas with Emphasis on Angelina County

Texas provides habitat for approximately 115 species of snakes with nearly 44 species found in the piney woods region of East Texas. Fifteen species of venomous snakes are found throughout the state while only 5 venomous species are found in the East Texas pine forests: two species of rattlesnakes; a copperhead; the cottonmouth; and the coral snake.

All snakes play a valuable role in the environment and if you can identify the five dangerous species in this brochure, you will be able to distinguish the harmless ones from the venomous ones that naturally occur in our area.

The purpose of this brochure is to be source of photographic identification of the 5 species of venomous snakes found in Angelina County and in the pine forests of East Texas.

There are a couple of characteristics that will positively distinguish the venomous snakes in our area from the harmless ones. Since four of the venomous species are pit vipers, they all have a deep pit between and below the eye and the nostril. No other snakes have this structure. The fifth snake is the coral snake and on it the colors red and yellow touch.



Canebrake, Timber or Velvet-tail, Rattlesnake, *Crotalus horridus atricaudatus*. This is the largest species of venomous snake in East Texas averaging 48 inches (record 74 inches). This is a Texas Threatened Species and is protected by State Law.



Pigmy or Ground Rattlesnake, *Sistrurus miliarius streckeri*. This is the smallest species of venomous snake in East Texas averaging 17 inches (record 25 inches).



Southern Copperhead, *Agkistrodon contortrix contortrix*. This species averages 24 inches (record 52 inches). A common species in East Texas. Look for dark cross bands that are wide on the side and narrow along the back. Vibrates its tail when disturbed.



Western Cottonmouth or Water Moccasin, *Agkistrodon piscivorus leucostoma*. This species averages 34 inches (record 62 inches). Found in streams, ponds and lakes. Will open its mouth and expose white lining when disturbed and will also vibrate its tail.