ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

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Learning the terms: Conservation Lingo

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: The International Union for Conservation of Nature was founded in 1964 and is a worldwide inventory of the conservation status of animals and plants. It evaluates the extinction risk of thousands of species and subspecies. The goal of the IUCN Red List is to convey the urgency of conservation issues to the public and to policy makers and to provide information to guide actions to conserve biological diversity. The IUCN aims to have the category of every species re-evaluated at least every ten years or five years if possible. As of 2019, of 105,000 species surveyed, 28,338 are considered at risk of extinction because of human activity, in particular overfishing, hunting and land development.

Conservation Status: The conservation status of a group of organisms (for instance, a species) indicates whether the group still exists and how likely the group is to become extinct in the near future. Many factors are taken into account when assessing conservation status: not simply the number of individuals remaining, but the overall increase or decrease in the population over time, breeding success rates, and known threats. Various systems of conservation status exist and are in use at international, multi-country, national and local levels as well as for consumer use.

Conservation Status Categories:

- **Extinct (EX)** – beyond reasonable doubt that the species no longer survives or exists
- **Extinct in the wild (EW)** – survives only in captivity, cultivation and/or outside native range, as presumed after exhaustive surveys
- **Critically Endangered (CR)** – in a particularly and extremely critical state
- **Endangered (EN)** – very high risk of extinction in the wild
- **Vulnerable (VU)** – meets one of the 5 red list criteria and thus considered to be high risk of unnatural (human-caused) extinction without further human intervention
- **Near Threatened (NT)** – close to being endangered in the near future
- **Least Concern (LC)** – unlikely to become endangered or extinct in the near future
- **Data deficient (DD)**
- **Not evaluated (NE)**
East Texas includes most of the Piney Woods and parts of the Big Thicket. The Big Thicket National Preserve was established by the National Park service in 1974. Biologists have identified at least eight ecosystems in the Big Thicket area, with over 160 different types of trees and shrubs and 500 animals with vertebrates (backbones).

Types of birds, animals and reptiles:

1. Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus) Conservation Status: Least Concern

2. Scarlet Tanager (Piranga olivacea) Conservation status: Least Concern

3. Red Fox (Vulpes vulpes) Conservation Status: Least Concern
4. Pileated Woodpecker (Dryocopus pileatus) Conservation Status: Least Concern

5. Eastern Box Turtle (Terrapene carolina carolina) Conservation Status: Vulnerable


7. Virginia Opossum (Didelphis virginiana) Conservation Status: Least Concern

8. Northern Mockingbird (Mimus polyglottos) Conservation Status: Least Concern

9. Eastern Wild Turkey (Meleagris gallopavo) Conservation Status: Least Concern
Caddo Lake State Park was created in 1931 and currently covers over 26,810 acres of cypress swamp. The origin of the lake is unknown. The Caddo people believed that the lake was formed when the Great Spirit caused an earthquake when a Caddo chief failed to obey him. The legend is a reference to an actual phenomenon – the 1812 New Madrid earthquake. Some geologists believe this may have been the actual cause for the creation of the lake. Others believe it was created by the Great Raft, a large log jam that blocked the flow of the Red River in the 1500s.

The park is located at 245 Park Road 2, Karnack, TX, 75661. Visitors can fish, paddle, hike, picnic, camp, stay in a cabin, search for geocache, and go boating. The lake contains over 71 species of fish, including crappie, largemouth bass and white bass.

Types of birds, animals and reptiles:

1. Bobcat (Lynx rufus) Conservation Status: Least Concern
Grassy Lake is a reservoir located off of Texas State Highway 326 near Bushy Lake and east of The Sour Lakes. It is near Sour Lake, Texas.

Types of birds, animals and reptiles:

1. Eastern Screech Owl (*Megascops asio*) Conservation Status: Least Concern

2. Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) Conservation Status: Least Concern

3. Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) Conservation Status: Least Concern
4. Monarch Butterfly (Danaus plexippus) Conservation Status: Near Threatened

5. Southern Leopard Frog (Lithobates sphencephalus or Rana sphencephala) Conservation status: Least Concern
Types of birds, animals and reptiles:

1. **Ivory-billed Woodpecker (Campephilus principalis)** Conservation Status: Critically Endangered (considered possibly extinct by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the American Birding Association)
   Ivory-billed Woodpeckers were once found in the hardwood forests and coniferous forests of the Southern United States and Cuba. Habitat destruction and hunting led to population decline. The last universally accepted sighting of an American ivory-billed woodpecker occurred in Louisiana in 1944, and the last universally accepted sighting of a Cuban ivory-billed woodpecker occurred in 1987. Hope that the species was still alive was encouraged by reported sightings of the bird in Arkansas, Louisiana and Florida. Ivory-billed woodpeckers were one of the largest woodpeckers in the world at roughly 1.67 feet tall and 2.49 feet in wingspan. They were not migratory birds.

   In September 2021, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed that the species be declared extinct. A virtual public hearing was held on January 26, 2022 and the public comment period ended February 10, 2022. A final decision by the Fish and Wildlife Service is due by September 2022.
Types of birds, animals and reptiles:

1. **Whooping Crane (Grus Americana)**  Conservation Status: Endangered

2. **White-Tailed Kite (Elanus leucurus)**  Conservation Status: Least Concern

3. **Northern Harrier (Circus hudsonius)**  Conservation Status: Least Concern
4. Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) Conservation Status: Near Threatened

5. Red-Shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) Conservation Status: Least Concern

6. Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) Conservation Status: Near Threatened

7. Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) Conservation Status: Least Concern

8. LeConte’s Sparrow – Male (*Ammospiza leconteii*) Conservation Status: Least Concern

9. LeConte’s Sparrow – Female (*Ammospiza leconteii*) Conservation Status: Least Concern
10. Black Rail (Laterallus jamaicensis) Conservation Status: Endangered

11. Virginia Rail (Rallus limicola) Conservation Status: Least Concern

12. Henslow’s Sparrow (Centronyx henslowii) Conservation Status: Least Concern


14. Texas Horned Lizard (Phrynosoma cornutum) Conservation Status: Least Concern

15. Monarch Butterfly (Danaus plexippus) Conservation Status: Near Threatened
Billy Hassell, *Canadian Geese and Snow Geese on the Texas Shore*, 2021, oil on canvas, loan courtesy of the artist and William Campbell Gallery, Fort Worth, TX

Types of birds, animals and reptiles:

1. Whooping Cranes (Grus Americana) Conservation Status: Endangered

2. Canadian Geese (Branta Canadensis) Conservation Status: Least Concern

3. Snow Geese (Anser caerulescens) Conservation Status: Least Concern
Billy Hassell, *Whooping Cranes over Salt Marshes*, 2021, oil on canvas, loan courtesy of the artist and Conduit Gallery, Dallas, TX

Types of birds, animals and reptiles:

1. **Whooping Crane (Grus Americana)**  Conservation Status: Endangered
Types of birds, animals and reptiles:

1. Common Gull (Larus canus) Conservation Status: Least Concern

2. Green Heron (Butorides virescens) Conservation Status: Least Concern

3. Great Egret (Ardea alba) Conservation Status: Least Concern
4. Snowy Egret (Egretta thula) Conservation Status: Least Concern

5. Great Blue Heron (Ardea Herodias) Conservation Status: Least Concern

6. Reddish Egret (Egretta rufescens) Conservation Status: Near Threatened

7. Roseate Spoonbill (Platalea ajaja) Conservation Status: Least Concern

8. American Oystercatchers (Haematopus palliatus) Conservation Status: Least Concern

9. Sandhill Crane (Antigone Canadensis) Conservation Status: Least Concern
Types of birds, animals and reptiles:

1. Cedar Waxwings (Bombycilla cedrorum) Conservation Status: Least Concern
Types of birds, animals and reptiles:

1. Brown Pelican (Pelecanus occidentalis) Conservation Status: Least Concern

2. Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphin (Tursiops truncates) Conservation Status: Least Concern

3. Kemp’s Ridley Sea Turtle (Lepidochelys kempii) Conservation Status: Critically Endangered

4. Northern Red Snapper (Lutjanus campechanus) Conservation Status: Vulnerable
5. Great Barracuda (Sphyraena barracuda) Conservation Status: Least Concern

6. Atlantic Spadefish (Chaetodipterus faber) Conservation Status: Least Concern

7. Lookdown Fish (Selene vomer) Conservation Status: Least Concern

8. Scaled Sardine (Harengula jaguana) Conservation Status: Least Concern

9. Gray Triggerfish (Balistes capriscus) Conservation Status: Vulnerable

10. Red Hind (Epinephelus guttatus) Conservation Status: Least Concern
Billy Hassell, *Brown Pelican, Turbulent Sea (Blue)*, 2011, color lithograph, edition 13/20, loan courtesy of the artist

Billy Hassell, *Brown Pelican, Turbulent Sea (Silver)*, 2011, color lithograph, edition 13/20, loan courtesy of the artist

Types of birds, animals and reptiles:

1. Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) Conservation Status: Least Concern

Types of birds, animals and reptiles:

1. **Belted Kingfisher (Megaceryle alcyon)** Conservation Status: Least Concern

2. **Common Dragonfly**

3. **Black Bullhead Catfish (Ameiurus melas)** Conservation Status: Least Concern
4. Alligator Gar (Atractosteus spatula) Conservation Status: Least Concern

5. Green Frog

6. Red Admiral Butterfly (Vanessa atalanta) Conservation Status: Least Concern

7. Red-eared Slider (Trachemys scripta elegans) Conservation Status: Least Concern

8. Bluegill Sunfish (Lepomis macrochirus) Conservation Status: Least Concern

9. Western Mosquito Fish (Gambusia affinis) Conservation Status: Least Concern

10. Largemouth Bass (Micropterus salmoides) Conservation Status: Least Concern
Billy Hassell, *Powderhorn Lake, Gulf Coast of Texas*, 2015, oil on canvas, edition 3/20, Collection of John Dickerson and Karolina Adam

Types of birds, animals and reptiles:

1. **Northern Bobwhite** (*Colinus virginianus*) Conservation Status: Near Threatened

2. **Eastern Meadowlark** (*Sturnella magna*) Conservation Status: Near Threatened

3. **LeConte’s Sparrow** (*Ammospiza leconteii*) Conservation Status: Least Concern
4. Black Rail (Laterallus jamaicensis) Conservation status: Endangered

5. Henslow’s Sparrow (Centronyx henslowii) Conservation status: Least Concern
Types of birds, animals and reptiles:

1. **Black-Necked Stilt** (Himantopus mexicanus) Conservation Status: Least Concern

2. **American White Pelicans** (Pelecanus erythrorhynchos) Conservation Status: Least Concern

3. **Red-eared Slider** (Trachemys scripta elegans) Conservation Status: Least Concern
Billy Hassell, *Roseate Spoonbills at Sunset*, 2021, oil on canvas, Collection of Susser Bank

Types of birds, animals and reptiles:

1. Roseate Spoonbills (*Platalea ajaja*) Conservation Status: Least Concern
Billy Hassell, *Great Egret with Four Blue Eggs*, 2003, color lithograph, artist proof, loan courtesy of the artist

Types of birds, animals and reptiles:

1. Buckeye Butterfly (*Junonia coenia*) Conservation Status: Least Concern

2. Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) Conservation Status: Least Concern

3. Common Whitetail Dragonfly (*Plathemis Lydia*) Conservation status: Least Concern

4. Egret Eggs
5. Banded Water Snake (Nerodia fasciata) Conservation Status: Least Concern

6. Green Frog

4. Red-Eared Slider – baby (Trachemys scripta elegans) Conservation Status: Least Concern
Types of birds, animals and reptiles:

1. Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle (Lepidochelys kempii) Conservation Status: Critically Endangered

2. Red Grouper (Epinephelus morio) Conservation Status: Vulnerable

3. Great Hammerhead Shark (Sphyrna mokarran) Conservation Status: Critically Endangered
4. Southern Stingray (Hypanus americanus) Conservation Status: Near Threatened

5. Lookdown (Selene vomer) Conservation Status: Least Concern

6. Atlantic Goliath Grouper (Epinephelus itajara) Conservation Status: Vulnerable

7. Flathead Gray Mullet (Mugil cephalus) Conservation Status: Least Concern

8. Atlantic Spanish Mackerel (Scomberomorus maculatus) Conservation Status: Least Concern

9. Great Barricuda (Sphyraena barracuda) Conservation Status: Least Concern
10. Atlantic Blue Marlin (Makaira nigricans) Conservation Status: Vulnerable