



East Texas Food Web

Longleaf Woodoats

(Chasmanthium sessiliflorum)

Longleaf woodoats are a type of clumping grass that prefers shade. It is commonly found on the forest floor. It grows throughout the southern United States, including the Piney Woods of East Texas. The longleaf woodoat is most active during the spring and summer. It produces a seed in late summer and early fall.

Eats

Eaten by

field sparrows, white-tailed deer

Water Oak

(Quercus nigra)

Water oaks are also known as pin oaks and are found in Texas along the borders of swamps and streams, and in the Big Thicket. Water oaks can grow up to 90 feet. They produce seeds and acorn fruit in the late spring and summer.

Eats

Eaten by

white-footed mice, eastern gray squirrels,

white-tailed deer, beetles, ants



Striped Skunk

(Mephitis mephitis)

Mainly nocturnal, skunks are social animals with several individuals occupying a winter den. In the fall they become extremely fat. They are more active in Texas in the winter months than in the heat of summer. Striped skunks are found throughout the United States, usually within a 2-mile radius of freshwater.

Eats

leaves, seeds, nuts, ants,
small mice, bird eggs

Eaten by

great horned owl, red-tailed hawk

Louisiana Milk Snake

(Lampropeltis triangulum amaura)

The Louisiana milk snake mimics the coloration of the highly venomous coral snake. It has alternating bands of black-red-black-yellow-black that provides camouflage. The Louisiana milk snake is non-venomous and hunts at night. It is found throughout Louisiana and Texas and into parts of Arkansas and southeast Oklahoma.

Eats

anoles, newborn mice, bird eggs

Eaten by

great horned owls, red-tailed hawks,
striped skunks, common raccoons



Field Sparrow

(Spizella pusilla)

The field sparrow is common bird in Texas and can be found in open fields and on the edge of forests in openings with not too many trees. They nest on the ground and as a result, the eggs are prone to lots of predators.

Eats

grass seeds, grains, nuts,
ants, beetles

Eaten by

Louisiana milk snake, striped
skunk, common raccoon

Green Anole

(Anolis carolinensis)

A green anole is a common lizard that varies in color from green to gray-brown. It is able to change its color to blend with the environment. The green anole prefers to be in trees or shrubs and requires a moist environment. It can be found throughout the eastern third of Texas.

Eats

crickets, grubs, cockroaches,
ants

Eaten by

Louisiana milk snake



Eastern Gray Squirrel

(Sciurus carolinensis)

The eastern gray squirrel is a medium-sized squirrel that lives in areas with abundant trees. They hoard food in a number of small hiding places for later recovery. They have a keen sense of spatial memory and use landmarks and smell to retrieve food they have hidden. They are found throughout the eastern United States and the eastern third of Texas.

Eats

seeds, acorns, tree bark, fungi
beetles, small rodents

Eaten by

humans, red-tailed hawks,
great horned owls, striped skunks,
common raccoons

Crickets

(Gryllus assimilis)

There are over 900 species of crickets. They have a similar body structure to grasshoppers that includes jumping hind legs. They are found throughout Texas and are most active during the fall.

Eats

dead decaying plant material, fungi,
plant leaves, dead crickets

Eaten by

barred tiger salamanders,
southern leopard frogs, anoles



Great Horned Owl

(Bubo virginianus)

The most powerful of the common owls, it is sometimes called a cat owl because of the shape of its eyes, ears, and head. It spends the majority of its time hunting, mainly at night because of its excellent night vision.

Eats

mice, squirrels, skunks, rabbits

Eaten by

Red-Tailed Hawk

(Buteo jamaicensis)

The red-tailed hawk occupies a wide range of habitats that include deserts, grasslands, forests, and urban areas. It competes with the great horned owl for nest sites. The red-tailed hawk is found throughout North America.

Eats

mice, squirrels, skunks

Eaten by