

Texas State Bird & Mammals

Fact Sheet

Armadillos are prolific diggers and will not survive in areas where the soil is too hard to dig. The armadillo can hold its breath for up to six minutes and it sometimes will cross shallow creeks and streams by walking underwater on the bottom to the other side. It also can inflate its intestines to help it swim across the water. The armadillo was adopted as the Texas state small mammal in 1995.



Nine-Banded Armadillo

Mockingbirds are the most commonly noticed birds in Texas. They mimic 50 other bird's songs. They have also been known to imitate other sounds they hear such as rusty hinges, whistling, cackling hens, and dog barks so expertly that even electronic analysis could not tell the difference between the mockingbird and the original! They were adopted as the Texas state bird in 1927.



Mockingbird

Mexican Free-tailed Bats are no larger than your two thumbs put together. They are the fastest mammals on earth, clocking in at 99 mph in level flight! They were adopted as the Texas state flying mammal in 1995.



Mexican Free-tailed Bat

Texas Longhorns are descended from ancient lineages of both Middle Eastern and Indian cattle. Their horns often measure 7 feet across from tip to tip! The Guinness World Record-holder is a steer named Pancho Via whose horns are a jaw-dropping 10 feet, 7.4 inches across. They became the large mammal symbol of Texas in 1995.



Texas Longhorn