

# Threatened & Endangered Species in East Texas

Updated April 2026



**Red-cockaded Woodpecker**

Rafinesque's big-eared bat (S2) is a medium-sized bat with long, rabbit-like ears. Unlike other bats that become active during twilight hours, Rafinesque's become active only when it's completely dark. They roost in caves, hollow trees, abandoned buildings, & under bridges. They originally required large hollow trees for roosts but throughout their range, many such roosts have been lost. Retain large snags & other hollow trees, especially in lowlands near water sources, during operations when feasible.

**Rafinesque's big-eared bat**



Red-cockaded Woodpecker is a **Federally Endangered** bird that's strongly tied to mature pine forests that burn frequently, leaving the forest mostly clear of a midstory. They excavate nest & roost cavities in living pine trees, pecking holes in the bark to keep a flow of sticky pitch around the nest cavity. Despite their name, they're largely black & white.

## **'Threatened & Endangered'**

species are those plant & animal species which are 'listed' by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) or National Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin. (NOAA). These lists include species that are considered *in danger of becoming extinct* throughout at least a portion of their range.



**Louisiana Pinesnake**

Louisiana Pinesnake (G1/S1/LT) requires open pine forests with sandy, well-drained soils. Suitable habitat is a grass & forb-dominated understory. Linked to Baird's pocket gopher.



**Bald Eagle**

The Bald Eagle is **NOT** a T&E species but is protected under the Bald & Golden Eagle Protection Act & the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Please refer to the MFM Bald Eagle Management Guidelines for any operational activity near an eagle nest.

## **Did you Know?**

- \* Nearly all migratory birds- including raptors, owls, & woodpeckers- & their nests are protected under the **Migratory Bird Treaty Act**
- \* Proper BMPs for SMZs & creek crossings help ensure suitable habitat for many species. Minimizing sedimentation & allowing proper water flow help all wildlife thrive.

Alligator snapping turtles were **Proposed Threatened by the USFWS in 2021**.

Found in rivers, lakes, ponds, oxbows, & swamps. They have a triangle-shaped head with a pointed nose, & a pronounced hook in their beak. Usually (but not always) have 3 rows of extremely prominent ridges on the top of their back. They can be large & Aggressive. In Texas, this turtle is currently an S2/protected species.



**Alligator Snapping Turtle**

\*Creeper (S1)  
 \*Fawnsfoot (S2)  
 \*Little Spectaclecase (S1)  
 \*Louisiana Pigtoe (G1/S1)  
 \*Sandbank Pocketbook (G2/S1)  
 \*Southern Hickorynut (S1)  
 \*Texas Heelsplitter (G2/S1)  
 \*Texas Pigtoe (G2/S2)

The freshwater mussel species to the left may be found in a number of East Texas waterways including the Neches, Angelina, Attoyac & Sabine Rivers, & their associated tributaries.

They depend on water quality, so proper BMPs for SMZs & creek crossings help ensure suitable habitat. Minimizing sedimentation, allowing normal water flow & providing adequate canopy cover all protect the riparian areas these species occupy.

Roughseed  
Flamethrower



Roughseed Flamethrower (S2) occupies a narrow ecological niche in dry, open, & sandy locations. It's ~ 8" tall & is drought tolerant. Bloom time is May - August.

#### Additional Considerations:

- T&E species have the potential to be affected by pesticide use. Please remember to use Best Mgmt Practices (BMPs) when implementing these tools on the landscape.
- **YOU are a great source of information!** Please keep your eyes open for T&E species & record the following if possible: data & time of occurrence, location, description of what you saw & a picture (if possible) for ID.



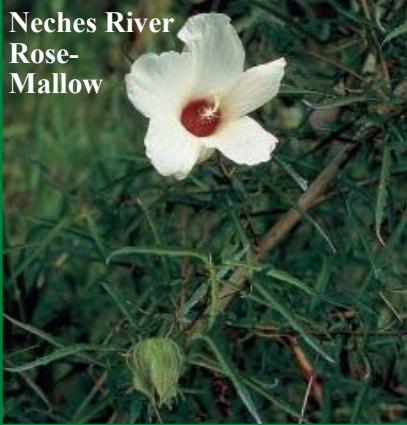
Louisiana Pigtoe

Neches River Rose-Mallow (G1/S1/LT) occurs at the edge of woodlands in open marshy areas found in sloughs, oxbows, river terraces & sand bars. It prefers soils near standing water, which are flooded during the wet winter/spring months, but dry up during summer. Similar to other Rose-mallows but is distinct with its hairless T-shaped leaves. Flowers June-August.



Earth  
Fruit

Earth-Fruit (Federally Threatened) is a tiny annual plant, branching from the base with branches ~ 1-2" tall. Evident from late Feb - late March, plants turn reddish to burgundy with age. Found in poorly drained, Saline soils along the edges of shallow depressions in sparsely vegetated areas.



Neches River  
Rose-  
Mallow

Kidney-leaved Grass of Parnassus (S1) is found in wet areas, bogs, swamps, & moist woods/drainages. Reaches about 10" in height. Flowers in late summer & continues into late fall.



Reflexed Trillium

Reflexed Trillium (S1) occurs on moist sites. Most have deep maroon flowers, while some are pale yellow. Blooms March-May.

Rough-stem Aster (G2/S1) is found in mostly open site of natural wetlands (seeps & springheads). Prefers edges of wetlands, not areas that are too wet or too dry.

Rough-stem Aster



Kidney-leaved  
Grass of Parnassus

False Hop Sedge (S1) found in swamps, riverbanks, ditches, & wet clearings. Typically a species of river bottoms but does occur in very wet floodplain forests that have an open canopy. Highly susceptible to alterations of wetland habitat.



False Hop  
Sedge