

Common Snakes for Collin & Hunt Counties

(and a bit of Denton County, too!)

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TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST, BLACKLAND PRAIRIE CHAPTER

iNaturalist Data Source

Collin and Hunt Counties

4,245 observations

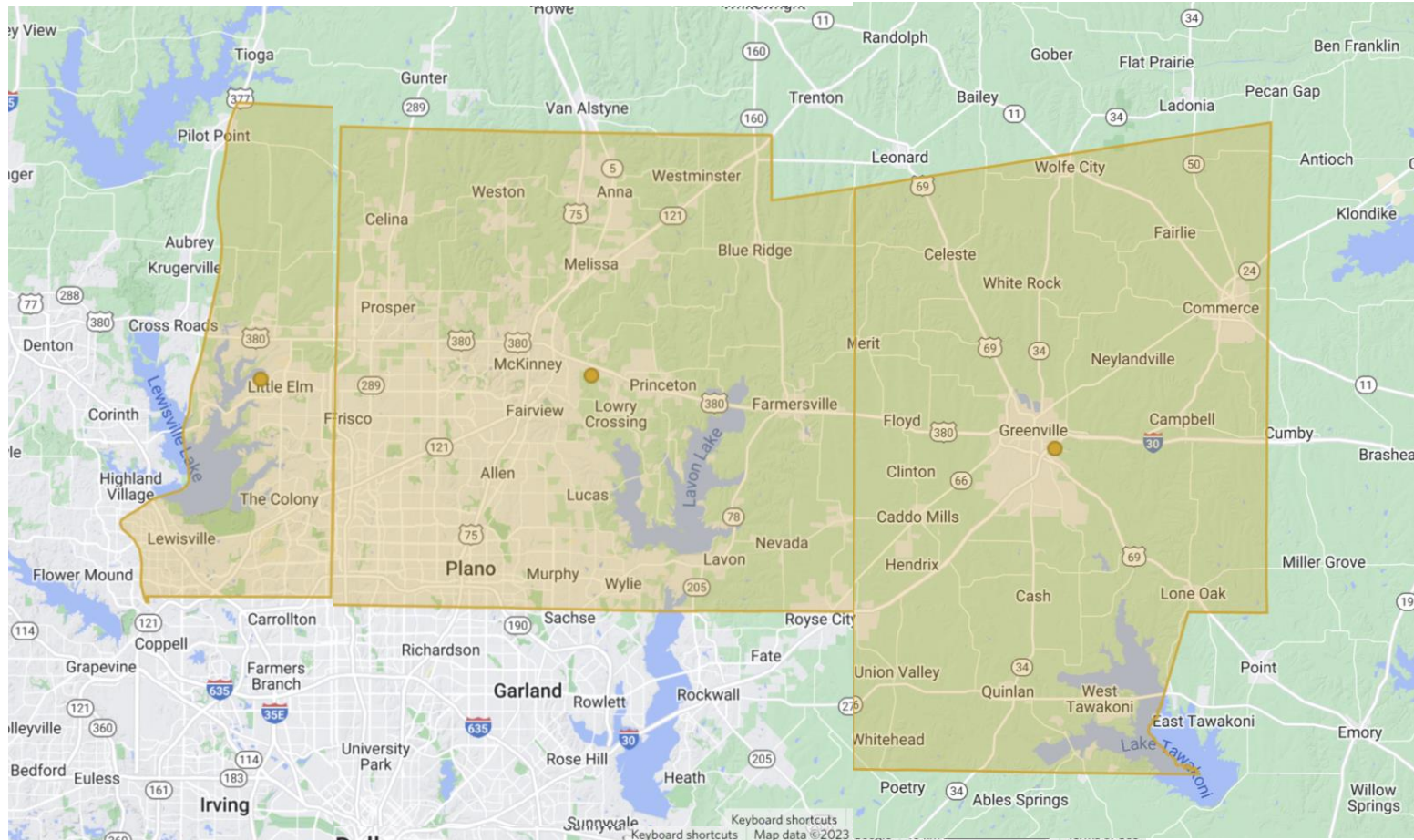
Denton County – Blackland
Prairie Region only

- 4,118 research grade
- 104 casual grade
- 23 needs ID

Excluded captive snakes*

- Denton Co 1,963
- Collin Co 2,097
- Hunt Co 185

iNaturalist Data Area



The BPTMN Top ~~10~~ 11 Countdown!

ACCORDING TO INATURALIST



11. Broad-banded Copperhead

10. Eastern Copperhead



9. Dekay's Brownsnake

Storeria dekayi

Adults usually less than 12"

Keeled dorsal scales, round pupils

Harmless, eats slugs/snails/earthworms

Docile and often found in damp areas
(including inside your house, under the sink!)

Loves urban areas!

Often is prey for larger animals due to the
small size



8. Western Ribbon Snake



Thamnophis proximus

Adults usually less than 17-50"

Keeled scales and round pupils

Very slender profile

Harmless, eats tadpole/amphibian

Crepuscular

7. Rough Earthsnake

Haldea striatula

Adults 7-10"

Harmless, eats earthworms almost exclusively

Fossorial

Secretive and docile

Very weakly keeled scales, round pupils

(Smooth Earthsnake has non-keeled scales)



6. Broad-banded Watersnake



Nerodia fasciata ssp. confluens

Adults 24-42"

Belly is usually off-white to white

Active day and night, usually in shallow water or overhanging branches

Harmless, eats fish and frogs



5. Rough Greensnake

Opheodrys aestivus

Up to 45" long

Very slender

Harmless, eats insects and arthropods

Keeled dorsal scales, round pupils

Very docile



4. Northern Cottonmouth



3. Diamondback Watersnake



Nerodia rhombifer

Adults 30-48"

Heavily keeled scales

Harmless but defensive and spicy! (teeth meant to hold slippery prey)

Found in slow-moving water

Distinctive vertical labial bars

2. Western Ratsnake

Pantherophis obsoleta lindheimeri

Adults 30-48", record is 86"

Keeled scales

Loves to mimic rattlesnakes

Excellent climbers!

Harmless, eats everything

Constrictor and will musk you



1. Plain-bellied Watersnake



Nerodia erythrogaster

Adults 24-40"

Dorsal may have bands similar to banded watersnakes but belly is plain, even on juveniles

Will travel far from water

Harmless but will bite and musk

Cottonmouth Mask vs Labial Bars



Cottonmouth



No Even Bars

Watersnake



Even Bars

Helpful Links

<http://www.texasnakeid.com/index.html>

<http://www.dfwherp.org/>

Various Facebook pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/whatsnakeisthis>

What kind of snake is this? North Texas Educational Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/806171226259516>

North Central Texas Snake Identification

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/987850051297436>

National Snakebite Support



Thank you!

Donna Cole

(and Cinco de Milo, the Trans-Pecos Rat Snake)

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*“In the end, we will conserve only what we love;
we will love only what we understand and we
will understand only what we are taught.”*

◦ *-Baba Dioum, Senegalese forester and ecologist*