

Gray Fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)



Gray Fox at Night, seen by game camera off FM 2095



Description

Medium-sized fox with gray on top, red undersides, and a whitish throat. Lower jaw has a distinct black patch. Does not have white at tail end. Typically just over 3' long.



Habits

Inhabits wooded areas throughout Texas. Also adept at climbing trees, particularly if they are leaning or have branches within 3 feet of the ground, and it is not unusual for it to use this escape device when pursued by hounds. Contrary to common belief, gray foxes are not strictly nocturnal but are much more active then. They have been observed in the daytime under conditions that suggested they were foraging. When so encountered, they often move to one side behind a protecting screen of vegetation and wait for the intruder to pass.

The gray fox is omnivorous; usually eating small mammals, insects, and birds.

Breeding season from December to March. Litters of three to six after 53-day gestation. Pups born blind but leave for rock piles, under rocks, in piles of brush, or in other sites that offer concealment and protection.

Thought to live six to 10 years. Major factors causing mortality include predation, parasites, diseases, and man.