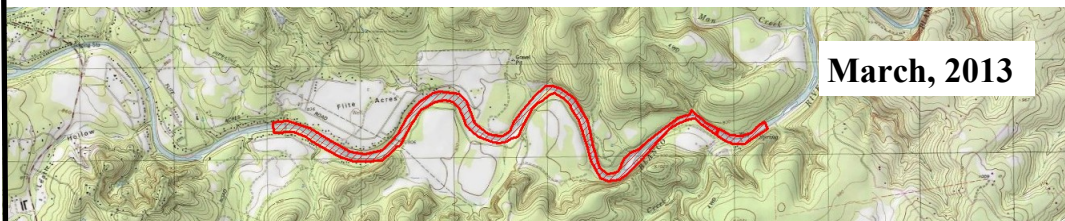
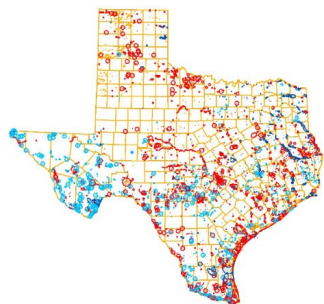




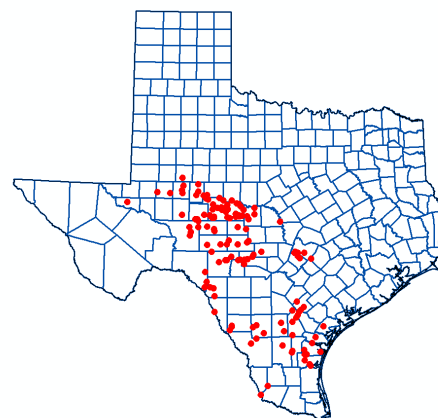
The TXNDD Report



March, 2013

Data Highlight: Spot-tailed Earless Lizard (*Holbrookia lacerata*)

The TXNDD has recently added 131 Element Occurrences (EOs) for Spot-tailed Earless Lizard. Prior to adding this new data we only had one EO for all of Texas. The new records are the result of a 2009 Section 6 funded project led by Mike Duran (Texas Chapter of The Nature Conservancy) and Ralph Axtell (Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville). The project included extensive mapping of historic records and surveys at each of the historic locations. While we now have mapped records for *H. lacerata* in the TXNDD from across its range, the surveys only yielded new observations at 9 of the historic locations. Of the 132 EOs in the database, 88 have not been confirmed in over 40 years and only 12 EOs have observations from the last 10 years. In addition, there have not been any reports from the southern part of the range in over 20 years.



Distribution of Spot-tailed Earless Lizard EOs in the TXNDD.

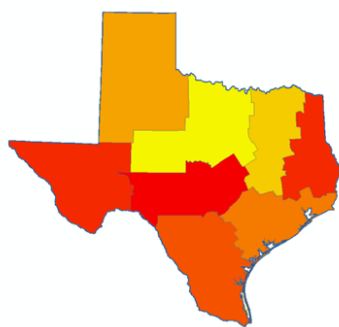


Holbrookia lacerata

This begs the question; are there fewer lizards or are less people reporting observations? The lack of observations in 2009 could be the result of a drought at the time, but most researchers believe that there has been overall declines as well. Duran speculates that loss of native grasslands, pesticides, and fire ants could all be factors in a population wide decline.

What we do know is that additional surveys and additional observations are needed to determine the current conservation status of this species.

TXNDD Data In-Focus: Data Across Districts



Wildlife Districts shaded by the number of EOs.

The TXNDD has data throughout the state, but our EOs are not evenly distributed. This is a result of both ecological and political reasons. The number of EOs in District 4 is a result of unique topography, an abundance of karst features, and numerous high profile species that have garnered a great deal of attention from the biological community and the public at large.

The number of EOs is also a result of TXNDD methodology; how we consolidate observations into individual EOs. For example, District 6 has over 500 EOs for Red-cockaded Woodpecker. These need to be updated and consolidated into something more like 60 EOs. The table to the right lists the number of EOs in each district in TPWD's Wildlife Division.

District	Number of Element Occurrences
4	1715
6	1473
1	1449
8	1385
7	824
2	698
5	564
3	471

TXNDD's Most Wanted

The TXNDD tracks over 700 elements. An element is a species, animal aggregation (e.g. bat cave), or native plant community. We are always looking for more data and here are a few of our highest priorities. Have you seen them?



Photo by Terry Hibbitts

Texas Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis* ssp. *annectens*)

28 Element Occurrences, all at least 20 years old.

This is a grassland species and its fate is likely tied to the fate of grasslands in Texas.

This species is best documented with a photograph with a good view of the side of the snake.

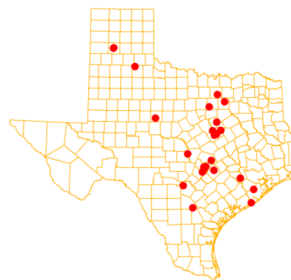


Photo by Bill Carr

Correll's false dragonhead (*Physostegia correllii*)

7 Element Occurrences, all over 30 years old except for one.

This species has been found in wet soil conditions ranging from silty clay loam to gravelly. It has been found along rivers, spring fed streams, ditches, and irrigation canals.

This species can be confused with similar species, so good photographs of the whole plant and leaves are helpful in confirming observations.

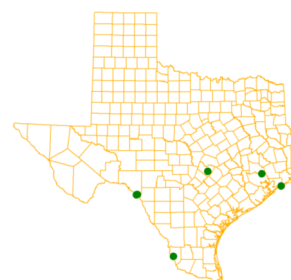


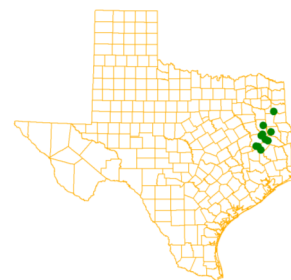
Photo by Cullen Hanks

Neches River rose-mallow (*Hibiscus dasycalyx*)

13 Element Occurrences; 9 have been recently detected.

Found in open marshy habitats in seasonally wet alluvial soils, most often near standing rather than flowing water.

This species can be confused with similar species, so good photographs of the leaves and the floral bracts are helpful in confirming observations.



TXNDD gets a new temporary employee!!

Background: Stephanie Shelton has a background in wildlife ecology, game and nongame species studies, GIS, research design, and data management. Stephanie is a very active outdoors woman, and has a particular interest in desert and island ecosystems.

Funding: Her position is funded by the Pittman-Robertson (PR) Wildlife Restoration Grant Program administered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Currently, this position is funded through 31 August 2013.

Impact: In the coming months, Stephanie will focus her efforts on prairie communities, black-tailed prairie dog and lesser prairie-chicken data.

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http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/txndd/

