Fish of Elm Fork Preserve

Fish are characterized by having scales, gills for breathing and an aquatic lifestyle.

Comments: The comments section lists remarks in the following order:

- ¹ Interesting facts and natural history associated with the animal. Its place of origin is also listed if it is an alien.
- ² Edible, medicinal or other useful qualities of the animal for humans. The potential for poisoning or otherwise injuring humans is also listed here.
- ³ Food preferences of the animal and potential predators. Ecological impact.
- ⁴ Identifying features of the animal, especially differences between similar species.
- ⁵ Dates, times and locations of animals sighted. Observed behaviors.
- ⁶ Synonyms; outdated or recently changed scientific names are inserted here.
- ⁷ Control measures. The date, method and reason for any selective elimination.
- ⁸ Intentional Introductions. The date, source and reason for any animal introductions
- ⁹ Identification references. Species identifications were made by the author unless otherwise noted. Identifications were verified using the reference material cited.
- ¹⁰ Accession made. Photos were taken and filed by date. Bones or other hard evidence was collected.

Kingdom: Animalia > Phylum: Chordata > Class: Actinopterygii

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
(F) Poeciliidae	Mosquito fish	¹ While actually a native of Central America, the mosquito fish has been naturalized and now lives in all waters throughout Texas. It feeds voraciously on mosquito larvae, but observations by the author indicate it survives well through the winter, possibly by feeding on microscopic detritus. ⁵ 31 March 01 − Released ~20 mosquito fish into the lily pond beside the parking lot.
Gambusia affinis		
(F) Lepisosteidae	Gar, Spotted	⁹ A good Internet source for Texas fish:
Lepisosteus oculatus		http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/water/aquaticspecies/inland.phtml ¹⁰ One clear photo of what appears to be a spotted gar, just beneath the surface of the water. The photo was submitted by "Z" - Tzila Duenzl, (see Principle Contributors page).
(F) Lepisosteidae	Gar	¹ There are 4 species of gar found throughout Texas: Alligator, spotted,
Lepisosteus sp.		longnose & shortnose. These long, narrow fish have elongated beak-like jaws that are lined with needle sharp teeth. The largest member of the gar family is the alligator gar. Its maximum weight is about 300 pounds and it can attain a length of 8 feet (Kemp, 1971, p. 26). 514 Jan 03 – Observed a double crested cormorant catch a gar. It was ~2' in length. The cormorant surfaced after a dive with the gar firmly in its beak. The gar struck the cormorant repeatedly in the head and eventually managed to break free. 1028 April 05 - Photo of a gar just beneath the surface of the water in the big pond on the east end of the preserve. There was not enough detail to determine the species.



Reference:

Kemp, Robert J. Freshwater Fishes of Texas (Bulletin 5-A). Austin, TX: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, 1971.



Caution: Alteration of this electronic document destroys data integrity and voids all liability for species misidentification by the author.



All identifications were made by the author unless specifically noted. If additions are made to the species list, please be sure to include the person's name that is making the identification, as well as the date, time, location, evidence used for identification (bones, photos, etc.) and the reference used.

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