





Swift Fox

Vulpes velox velox

Status: Candidate for threatened or endangered status

Size: Slightly larger than a big house cat (5-8 lbs.)

Diet: Insects, birds, lizards, rodents and rabbits

Where it Lives: Sparsely vegetated deserts and grasslands. In Texas, their range is the Panhandle and West Texas.

Reproduction: 3 to 6 pups born from March to April

Population Numbers: Unknown

Interesting Fact: As their name suggests, they rely on speed to escape from predators and to catch their food.

Swift foxes are the smallest of the North American foxes. Their fur is yellowish brown frosted with white and black hairs, and their tail is tipped with black. The fur on the belly is white. They hunt at night but seldom stray more than 4 miles from their dens. Their dens are burrows dug into the ground which provided protection from harsh weather and predators such as coyotes.

Swift foxes are relatively unafraid of man and are far less cunning than most other foxes. They are so unsuspicious that they are easily trapped, and even more easily poisoned. Consequently, wherever trappers are active, and especially wherever control campaigns involving the use of poison have been carried out against other predators such as coyotes, swift foxes have been greatly reduced in number.