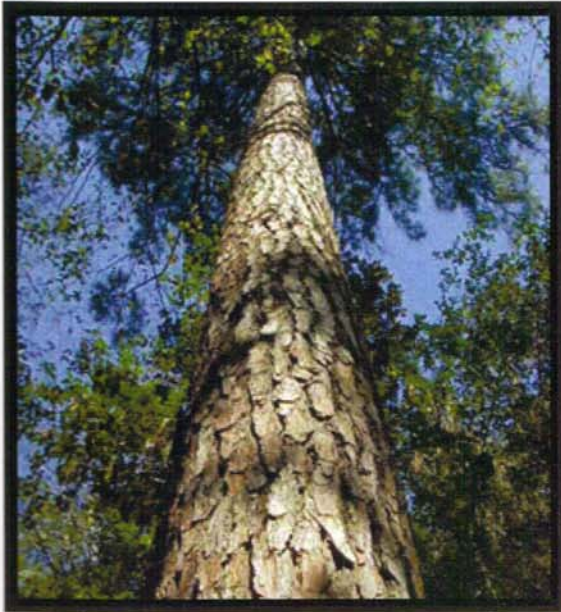


# Texas, Our Texas

## RM 7

### The Piney Woods

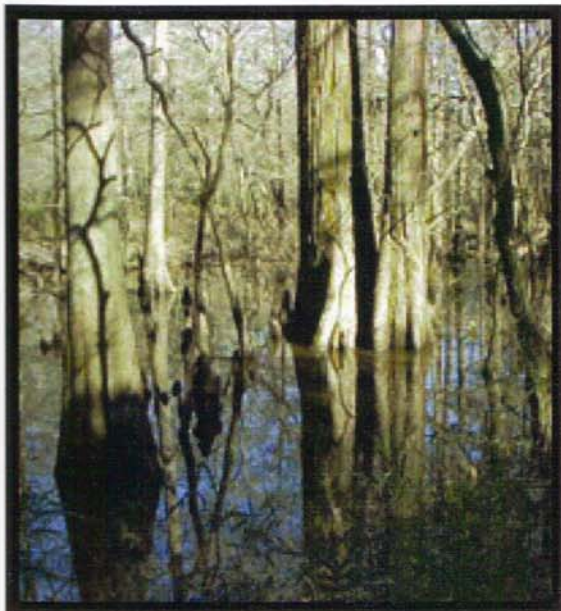


**Big Thicket Pine**

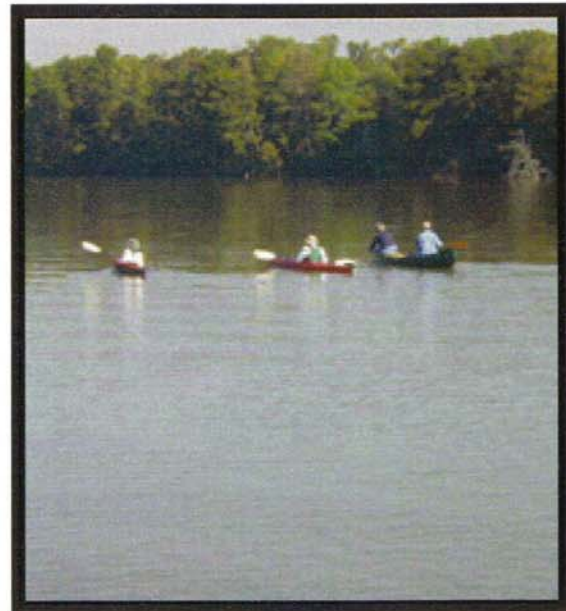


**Palmetto Leaf**

Many parts of this ecoregion are characterized by longleaf pine forests on rolling sandy uplands. A variety of broad-leaved plants, shrubs, and grasses grow in this ecoregion of Texas. Photos: National Park Service



**Bald Cypress Marsh**



**Neches River**

The Big Thicket national preserve is part of the Piney Woods. There are over 85 species of trees, 1,000 flowering plants, and over 180 kinds of birds in the Big Thicket.

Photos: National Park Service

# Texas, Our Texas

## RM 7 continued

### Gulf Coast Plains and Marshes

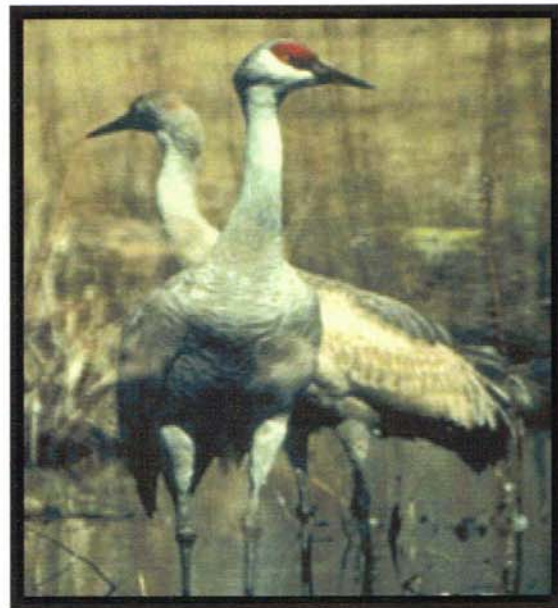


**Barrier Island**

Barrier islands, peninsulas, marshes, and flat plains characterize this ecoregion. Sixty percent of the Texas Gulf Coast shoreline erodes from 30 cm to 15 m per year. Photo: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



**Rosette Spoonbills**



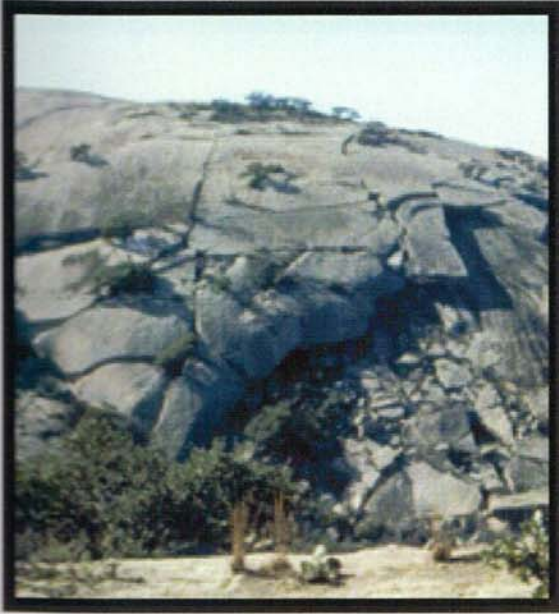
**Whooping Cranes**

The western part of the Gulf Coast Plain is one of the most biologically diverse regions of Texas. Nearly 500 species of resident and migratory birds have been recorded in the Texas coastal region. Photo: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

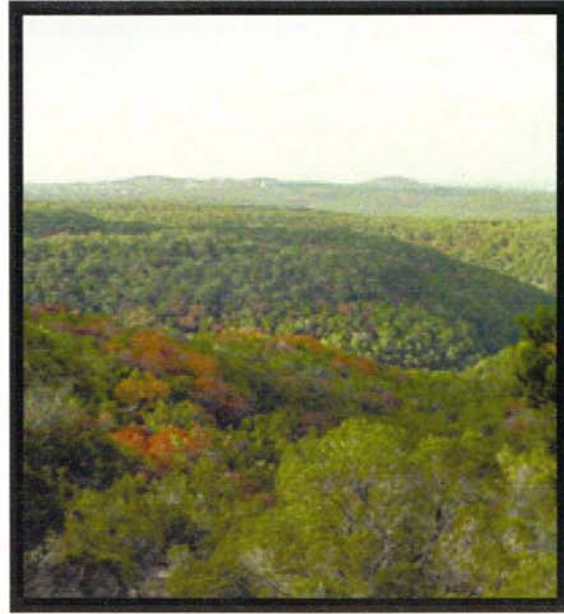
# Texas, Our Texas

## RM 7 continued

### Edwards Plateau/Llano Uplift



**Enchanted Rock**

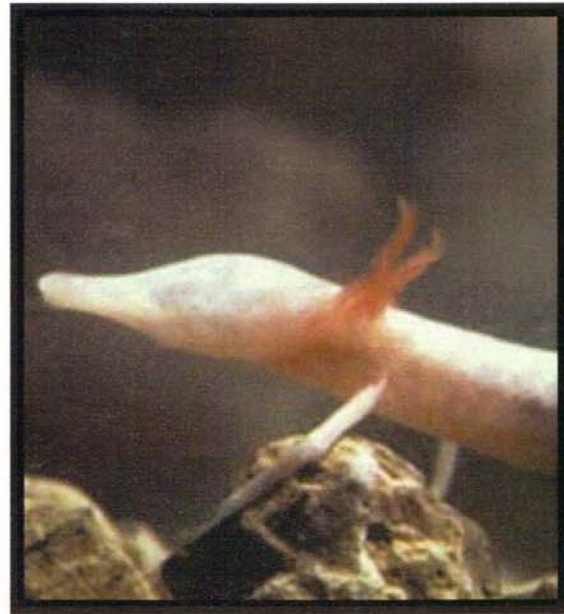


**Canyonlands**

The Llano Uplift is located within the Edwards Plateau ecoregion. It is sometimes referred to as the Hill Country. Dome-like rock formations of exposed pink granite are located in this region. Unique plant communities are often found on these domes. An example of this type of rock formation is the Enchanted Rock. The southeast portion of the Edwards Plateau is an area of canyonlands. A diversity of plants can be observed in this area, including deciduous forests, grasses, mesquite trees, and wildflowers. Photos: Texas Parks and Wildlife



**Mexican Free-Tailed Bats**



**Texas Blind Salamander**

Mexican free-tailed bats, the Texas blind salamander, and the golden-cheeked warbler are just a few of the unique animals that can be observed in the region. Cool, clear springs and streams provide water for the vegetation and wildlife. Photos: Texas Parks and Wildlife

# Texas, Our Texas

## RM 7 continued

### High Plains

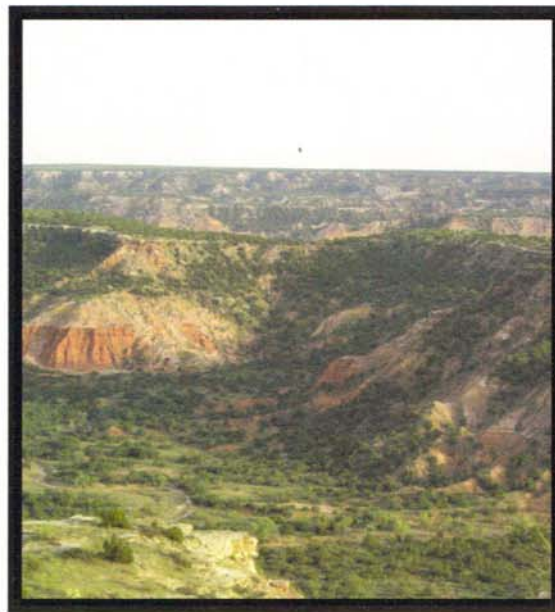


**Playa**



**Prairie Dog**

This ecoregion usually receives less than 20 inches of precipitation per year. Seasonal lakes called playas are found in this ecoregion. These lakes are filled with salts due to the erosion of nearby hills by rainwater. Playas are key sites of biodiversity. They provide important habitats for ducks, geese, sand hill cranes, shorebirds, amphibians, and small mammals. Photo: Loren M. Smith, Texas Tech University



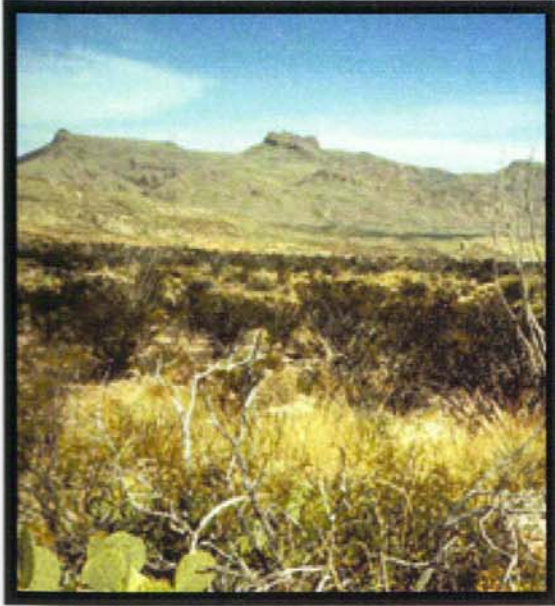
**Palo Duro Canyon**

The Palo Duro Canyon is the second largest canyon in the United States. It was formed by water erosion of the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River.

# Texas, Our Texas

## RM 7 continued

### Trans Pecos/Chihuahuan Desert

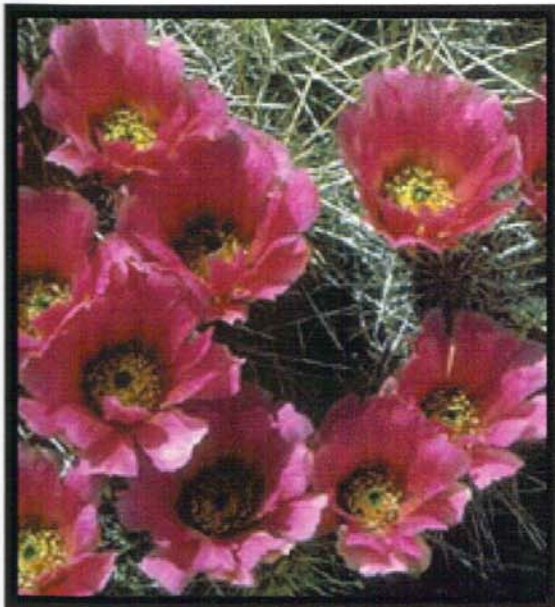


**Croton Peak**

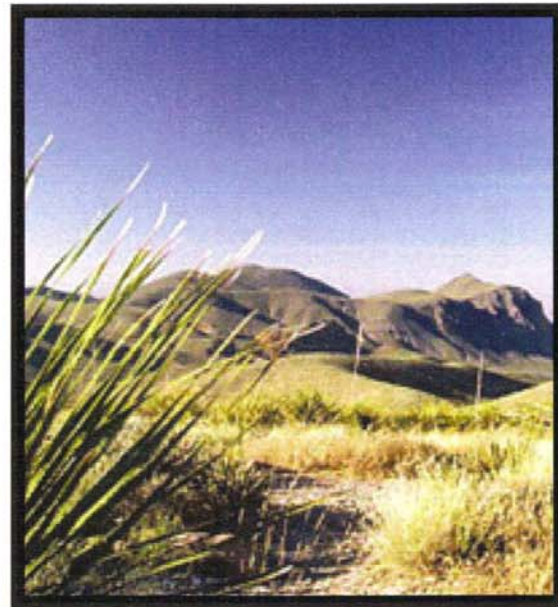


**Roadrunner**

The area generally west of the Pecos River in Texas is often called the Trans-Pecos. It occupies the northern part of the Chihuahuan Desert, which extends south nearly 500 miles into Mexico. Shown here is Croton Peak in the northern part of Big Bend National Park. Roadrunners are well-adapted to desert habitats of the Southwest. They eat insects, spiders, snails, lizards, and some fruits and seeds.



**Blooming Cactus**



**Grasslands**

The Trans Pecos ecoregion has diverse topography. It includes desert flats and valleys, plateaus, sand hills, and mountain ranges. Grasslands, shrub lands, cactus savannas, and mountain woodlands also occur. Photo: Michel Farhi