



snake mainly eats crayfish that have just shed their exoskeleton but will also take other crustaceans, amphibians and fishes.

HABITATS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> bottomland forests | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rivers & streams |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lakes, ponds & reservoirs | <input type="checkbox"/> swamps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> temp water supplies |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> marshes | <input type="checkbox"/> wet prairies & fens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> peatlands | |

ILLINOIS STATUS

- | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> common | <input type="checkbox"/> endangered | <input type="checkbox"/> threatened |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>native</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>exotic</u> | |

ILLINOIS RANGE

statewide

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999. *Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

Graham's crayfish snake

Regina grahamii

Kingdom: Animalia
 Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates
 Class: Reptilia
 Order: Squamata
 Family: Colubridae

FEATURES

Graham's crayfish snake averages 18 to 28 inches in length. Its back is brown or dark olive, and a broad, yellow stripe is present along each lower side. The belly is yellowish and may or may not have markings. The scales are keeled (ridged).

BEHAVIORS

Graham's crayfish snake lives in ponds, streams, sloughs, swamps and marshes. This snake is semiaquatic. It hides under stones or debris along the water's edge and sometimes in crayfish burrows or other burrows. It basks on rocks and in branches overhanging the water. It is active in the day except in the hot summer months when it becomes nocturnal. This snake may flatten its body when disturbed and/or release large amounts of nasty-smelling musk from glands at the base of the tail. It overwinters in crayfish burrows. Mating occurs in spring. The female gives birth to from nine to 40 young in late summer, the number depending on her size and age. Graham's crayfish