



queen snake

Regina septemvittata

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

FEATURES

The queen snake averages 15 to 24 inches in length. It has a brown back, and a yellow stripe along each lower side of the body. The belly is yellow with four brown stripes. The scales are keeled (ridged).

BEHAVIORS

The queen snake lives in creeks and rivers in forested regions. It may take cover under rocks or brush along the water's edge. 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. Mating occurs in spring. The female gives birth to from five to 20 young in late summer, the number depending upon her size and age. The queen snake eats mainly crayfish, especially those which have just shed their exoskeleton.

HABITATS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> bottomland forests | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rivers & streams |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lakes, ponds & reservoirs | <input type="checkbox"/> swamps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> temp water supplies |
| <input 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"/> native | <input type="checkbox"/> exotic | |

ILLINOIS RANGE

northeastern 1/4

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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