



redbelly snake

Storeria occipitomaculata

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

FEATURES

The redbelly snake averages eight to 10 inches in length. Although usually brown in color, it may be reddish or gray on the back. It may show four, narrow dark stripes or a light stripe along the middle of the back. The scales are keeled (ridged). The belly is plain red. Three light spots are present behind the head.

BEHAVIORS

The redbelly snake usually lives in or near open woods but occasionally is seen in wet meadows or pastures. It frequently hides under rocks or other objects. Most of the time this snake hides under rocks, bark or other objects, but it may occasionally be seen sunning itself. The redbelly snake may flatten its body when disturbed and release a substance from its anal scent glands. Mating occurs spring, summer or fall. The female gives birth to from one to 20 young in late summer or early fall, the number depending on her size and age. This snake eats slugs, insects and earthworms.

HABITATS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bottomland forests | <input 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 checked="" 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.