



five-lined skink

Eumeces fasciatus

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata
Class: Reptilia
Order: Squamata
Family: Scincidae

FEATURES

The five-lined skink averages five to eight and one-half inches in length. It has smooth, shiny scales. The female and young have five long, light stripes on a dark background. The male is tan, gray or bronze with red cheeks. Young have blue tails.

BEHAVIORS

The five-lined skink may be found in the southern one-half of Illinois. This reptile lives in woodlots with rotting stumps and logs, abandoned lumber or sawdust piles, rock piles and decaying piles of vegetation in or near a woods. It may be found around farm buildings, rock gardens and patios. The five-lined skink is terrestrial, foraging by day. Its tail breaks off easily. The animal will bite if disturbed. The bright blue tail of the young skink is believed to be an identifying feature to protect it from attack by adult males. The female deposits about six to 13 eggs in rotten logs or stumps, leaf litter or under rocks during late spring. The female remains with the eggs until hatching, a period of one to two months. This skink eats arthropods (insects, spiders and others), earthworms and mollusks (snails, slugs and others).

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: southern 1/2

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.