



## six-lined racerunner

*Cnemidophorus sexlineatus*

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

## FEATURES

The six-lined racerunner averages six to nine and one-half inches in length. It has a long tail. Tiny scales are present on the back, and rectangular scales are on the belly. Six light stripes on the back extend onto the tail. Stripes may be yellow, white, pale gray or pale blue. Two folds of skin are present on the throat. The dark part of the body may be brown or black. A young racerunner has a light blue tail.

## BEHAVIORS

The six-lined racerunner may be found along the Mississippi and Illinois rivers and in extreme southeastern Illinois. The six-lined racerunner lives in open areas such as fields, thickets, rock outcrops and floodplains. It is active during the day and may frequently be seen sunning on logs, rocks, trees or buildings. It may take shelter under rocks, boards, in burrows of its own construction or in burrows of other animals. It burrows in loose soil on south or southwest slopes to overwinter. Courtship and mating occur from April through July. The male displays his colorful throat and chest during courtship. One to six eggs are deposited by the

female in late June in loose soil, sand or rotten logs. Older females may produce two clutches per year. Eggs hatch from late July through August. The racerunner eats arthropods (insects, spiders and others), particularly termites.

## HABITATS

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

## ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

## ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: Mississippi & Illinois river border counties + southeast 1/4

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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