



Kirtland's snake

Clonophis kirtlandii

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

FEATURES

Kirtland's snake averages 14 to 18 inches in length. It has a reddish belly with a row of round, black spots down each side. The scales are keeled (ridged). The body is gray or brown above with four rows of black blotches that may be difficult to see.

BEHAVIORS

Kirtland's snake may be found in northeastern and east central Illinois. This snake is aquatic, but it is often found on land. It lives in or near wet meadows, swamps, wooded hillsides and adjacent meadows, parks and urban areas. It can flatten its body when disturbed and hold this position for a long time. It hides under rocks, boards or other objects. Mating occurs in May. The female gives birth to four to 22 young in August or September. This snake eats worms, fishes and slugs.

HABITATS

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

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: east central + northeast

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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