



corn snake

Elaphe guttata

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

FEATURES

The corn snake averages 24 to 36 inches in length. The scales in the middle rows along the back are weakly keeled (ridged) while the remaining scales are smooth. A “spearpoint” shape is present between the eyes. The tail has stripes underneath. A blotched pattern of gray, brown, red-brown or olive-brown is seen on a light gray body. The belly is patterned with black and white.

BEHAVIORS

The corn snake may be found in Illinois from Jersey County south to Randolph County. This snake lives in rock bluffs near waterways. The corn snake is secretive, hiding under rocks, logs, boards, in rock crevices and in small mammal burrows in the day. Active at night in warm weather, it climbs readily. It will vibrate its tail when disturbed. The female deposits four to 12 eggs under objects on the ground during early summer. Eggs hatch about one month later. This snake kills its prey by constriction. It eats birds and small mammals.

HABITATS

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

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: southwestern Mississippi River border counties

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2006.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.