



rough green snake

Opheodrys aestivus

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

FEATURES

The rough green snake averages 22 to 32 inches in length. It is very slender with a green back and a white, yellow or pale green belly. The scales are keeled (ridged). After the snake dies, the body color changes to a dull blue. The mouth cavity is purple.

BEHAVIORS

The rough green snake may be found in the southern one-half of Illinois. It lives in vegetation around water. The rough green snake is semiaquatic, entering water as well as living on land. It is excellent at climbing, often foraging in shrubs and trees. This snake is active during the day. Mating occurs in spring and fall. The female deposits from three to 12 eggs under a rock, in leaf litter, in a brush pile or in a rotten stump during June or July. Eggs hatch in late summer or early fall. This snake eats insects and spiders.

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.