



## brown snake

*Storeria dekayi*

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

### FEATURES

The midland brown snake averages nine to 13 inches in length. It is usually brown but may be red or gray on the back with an area in the middle of the back lighter than the sides. The scales are keeled (ridged). A dark streak is present on each side of the head. Numerous dark lines cross the back giving it a ladder-back appearance. The belly is yellow, brown or pink.

### BEHAVIORS

The midland brown snake may be found statewide in Illinois. This small reptile lives in parks, cemeteries, urban empty lots, bogs, floodplains, swamps, marshes, moist woods and hillsides. It is active during the day, except in the hottest summer months. It is rarely seen, however, as it spends much time under rocks, logs and other objects on the ground. The midland brown snake may flatten its body when disturbed and release a substance from its anal scent glands. Mating usually occurs in spring but may also occur in the fall. The female gives birth to from three to 25 young in late summer, the number depending on her size and age. This snake eats slugs, insects and earthworms.

### HABITATS

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

### ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

### ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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