



redbelly snake

Storeria occipitomaculata

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

FEATURES

The redbelly snake averages eight to 10 inches in length. Although usually brown in color, it may be reddish or gray on the back. It may show four, narrow dark stripes or a light stripe along the middle of the back. The scales are keeled (ridged). The belly is plain red. Three light spots are present behind the head.

BEHAVIORS

The redbelly snake may be found statewide in Illinois. This animal usually lives in or near open woods but occasionally is seen in wet meadows or pastures. Most of the time this snake hides under rocks, bark or other objects, but it may occasionally be seen sunning itself. The redbelly snake may flatten its body when disturbed and release a substance from its anal scent glands. Mating occurs in spring, summer or fall. The female gives birth to from one to 20 young in late summer or early fall, 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.