



GRAY RAT SNAKE

Pantherophis spiloides
Protected

BASIC ID

This 3.5-6' snake is dark brown to blackish and flecked with white, yellow, or orange. Red and yellow flecks mark the underside. The head is solid brown with a white chin and throat.

HABITS

Black rat snakes eat rodents and birds. They live in bluff prairies, woods and fields, and may be found in farm buildings.

FUN FACT

Black rat snakes are Wisconsin's only tree-dwelling snake, sometimes spending weeks at a time in mature trees.

FOR INFORMATION

www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er

ER-106A 2008



Photo: A. B. Sheldon
Recycled paper

EASTERN HOG-NOSED SNAKE

Heterodon platirhinos

BASIC ID

This 1.5-3' snake has an upturned, pointed snout. The body has dark brown blotches on a brown-gold background. The belly is a uniform pale in adults. The neck has two "eyespot."

HABITS

Hognose snakes eat mainly toads or other amphibians. They live in sandy grasslands, oak savannas, and sand prairies.

FUN FACTS

This snake flares its neck and looks somewhat cobra-like when disturbed. They often play dead and flip upside down if harassed.

FOR INFORMATION

www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er

ER-106F 2008



Photo: A. B. Sheldon
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BUTLER'S GARTERSNAKE

Thamnophis butleri
Threatened

BASIC ID

This 14-20" snake has yellow lateral stripes includes part or all of the scale row 4. The head is small and only as wide as the neck. The brown/black body has orangish-yellow stripes.

HABITS

They eat mostly earthworms. They live in wet and dry prairies, marshes, old fields, grassy roadsides and vacant lots.

CONSERVATION

Protect open vegetated wetlands and at least 180-feet of open grassy upland fringes around these wetlands.

FOR INFORMATION

www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er

ER-106E 2008



Photo: A. B. Sheldon
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QUEEN SNAKE

Regina septemvittata
Endangered

BASIC ID

This 1.5-2" snake has three pale dark stripes along its brown or gray back and a set of pale yellow stripes down its sides. It has two dark short stripes on the belly toward the head.

HABITS

Queen snakes feed primarily on crayfish, but may also eat amphibians and minnows. They live in clear, rocky streams.

FUN FACT

This extremely rare snake's scientific name means queen with seven stripes (septem = seven, vittata = stripes).

FOR INFORMATION

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er

ER106L 2003



Photo: Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources
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EXTENSION

ORNATE BOX TURTLE

Terrapene ornata ornata
Endangered

BASIC ID

This 3.5-4.5" turtle has a dark brown, domed shell with yellow paint stroke markings. The bottom is brown with yellow rays and has a hinge.

HABITS

They feed on insects, slugs, carrion and succulent plants. They live in deep sand prairies and oak savannas.

FUN FACTS

Box turtles are named for their shells, which can close up completely to exclude predators. They are the only Wisconsin turtle that lives only on land.

FOR INFORMATION

www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er

ER-106K 2008



Photo: A. B. Sheldon
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NORTHERN CRICKET FROG

Acris crepitans
Endangered

BASIC ID

This .7-1.2" frog is brownish-tan or green with a rust or green colored triangle on its head and has bumpy skin.

HABITS

They eat small insects. They live in lakes, ponds and rivers, preferring mud or sand flats with sparse, low vegetation. Their 6-7-second call is like two ball bearings clicking together.

FUN FACTS

The 1-inch cricket frog can leap 4 feet in a single jump. One of these frogs can eat 4,800 bugs in a single season.

FOR INFORMATION

www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er

ER-106B 2008



Photo: A. B. Sheldon
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WOOD TURTLE

Glyptemys insculpta
Threatened

BASIC ID

This 6-9" brown-shelled turtle has sculpted sections resembling tree rings. The bottom is yellow with black blotches. The head is black and the neck and leg skin is yellow or orange.

HABITS

They eat berries, greens and invertebrates. They live in clean rivers and adjacent forests and meadows.

FUN FACT

Some wood turtles hunt worms by "worm-stomping." They quickly stomp their front feet, mimicking heavy raindrops hitting the ground. The worms are eaten when they surface.

FOR INFORMATION

www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er

Photo: A. B. Sheldon
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ER-106G 2008



WESTERN SLENDER GLASS LIZARD

Ophisaurus attenuatus
Endangered

BASIC ID

This legless 1.5-2' lizard looks like a snake but has movable eyelids and ear openings. The skin is tan-bronze with dark stripes down the back and sides. The belly is pale yellow.

HABITS

They eat insects and some bird eggs or mice. They require oak savannas and sand prairies to survive in Wisconsin.

FUN FACT

The name "glass" lizard refers to their tails, which easily break and can shatter when grabbed by a predator.

FOR INFORMATION

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er

ER-106P 2003



Photo: A. B. Sheldon
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EXTENSION