

# LASSST ONE LOSESSS!

STRATEGY GAME  
 MODERATE TO DIFFICULT  
 2 PLAYERS

## OBJECT

Make the other person pick up the last card.

## WILDCARDS

15 snakes and turtles or other **Wildcards** showing rare, threatened, or endangered species

## DEAL

Lay the cards faceup in a pyramid as shown.

## PLAY

**Youngest Player:** You go first. You can take cards out of only one horizontal row. You can take as many cards from that row as you want.

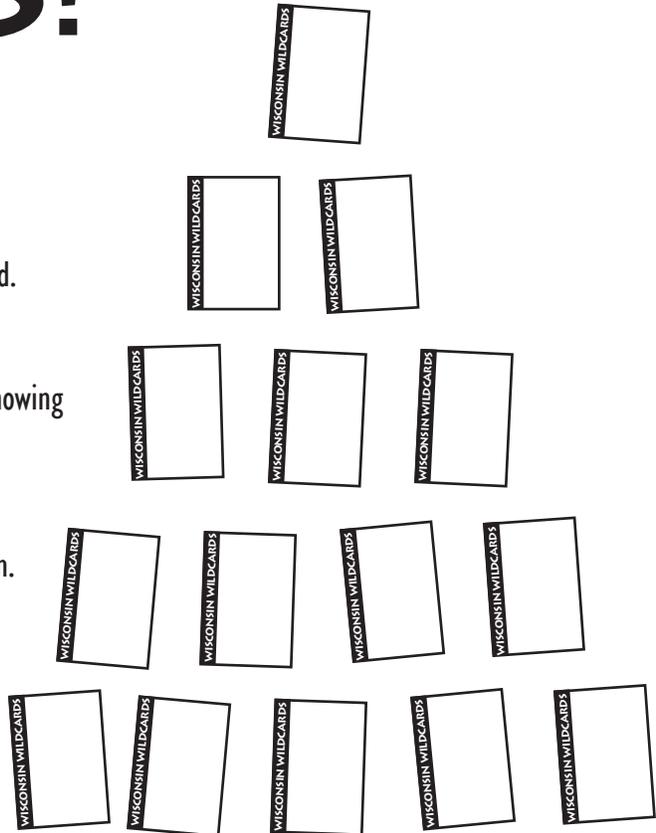
**Other Player:** Now it is your turn to remove any number of cards from any one row!

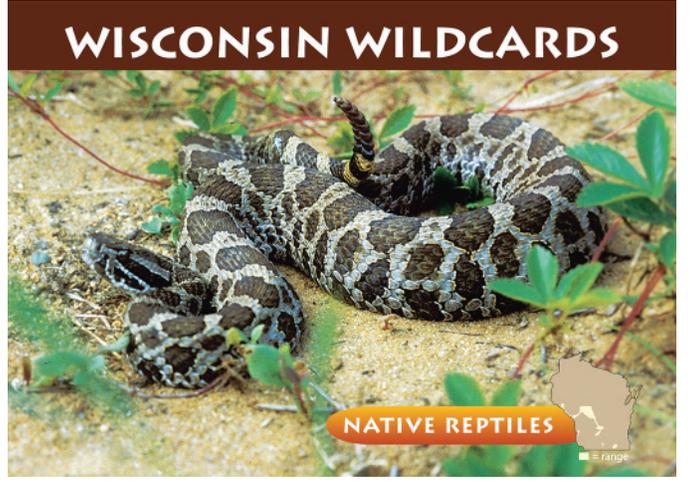
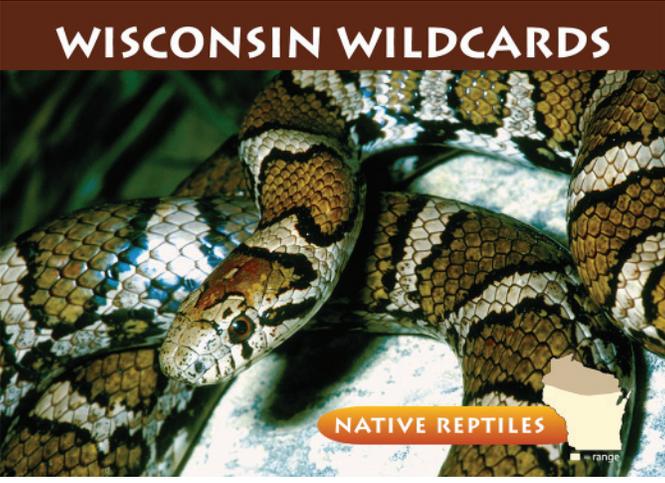
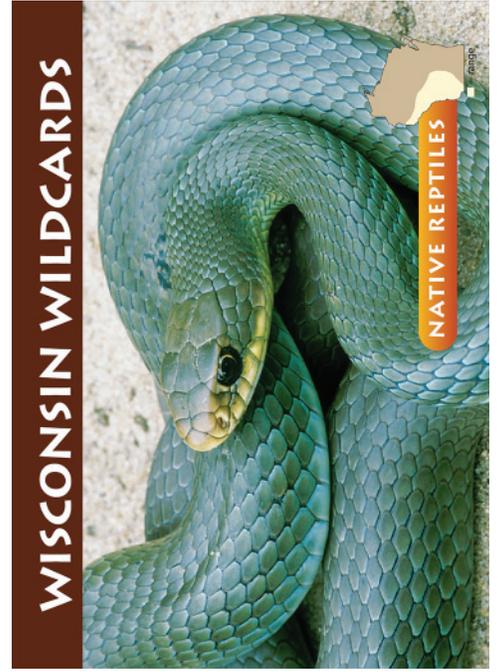
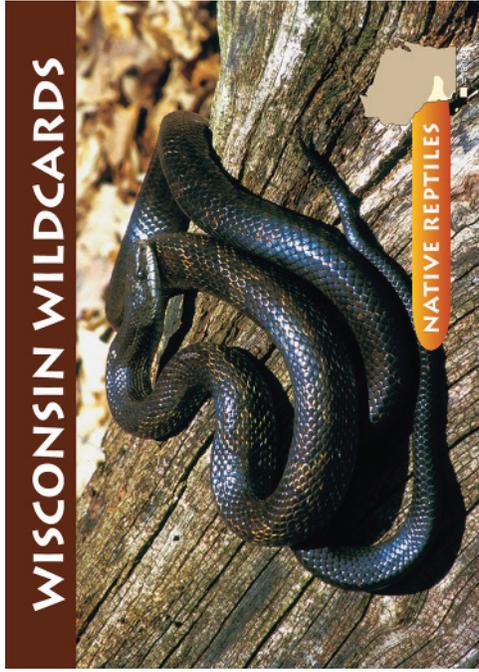
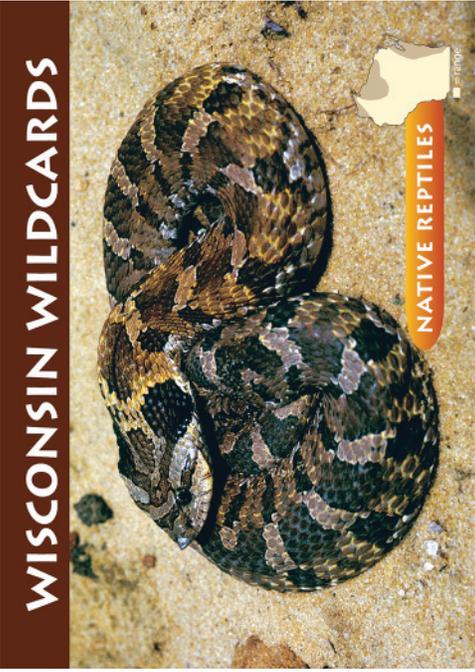
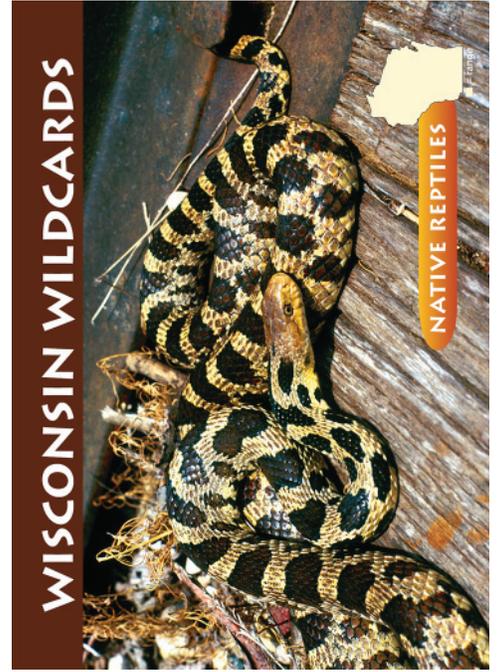
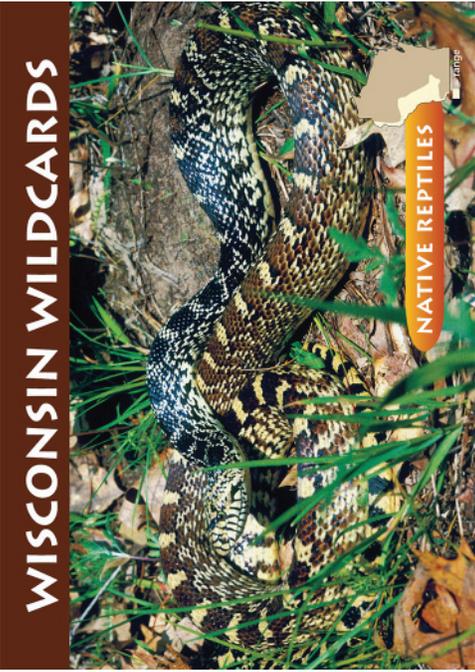
Continue taking turns removing cards until there is only one card left. The person who has to pick up the last card gets one point. If the last card is a threatened or endangered species, the person gets two points. The winner is the person with the fewest number of points when you are done playing.

## STRATEGY

There are numerous strategies for winning this game. In fact, if you figure out the strategies, you are difficult to beat. Here's a clue to one of them: 1-2-3!

After you figure out this strategy game, think about solving the real problem. Wisconsin is home to 19 amphibians (frogs and salamanders) and 35 reptiles (snakes, turtles and lizards). Of these, seven are listed as endangered, three are threatened, and 19 are of special concern. That's a strategic problem we all need to solve.





## WESTERN FOXSNAKE

*Pantherophis vulpinus*  
(Alias - Pine snake)

### BASIC ID

This 3-5' snake has a body color of tan, yellow or olive gray with large brown to black blotches along its back and smaller blotches on its sides. The head is a copper/orange in adults.

### HABITS

This snake eats primarily rodents. They live in a variety of open habitats including marshes, sedge meadows and prairies.

### FUN FACTS

Fox snakes mimic rattlesnakes by shaking their tails when disturbed. The name fox comes from the fox-like, scented musk they emit when grabbed.

### FOR INFORMATION

[www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er)

ER-106N 2008



Photo: A. B. Sheldon  
Recycled paper

## 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](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er)

ER-106E 2008



Photo: A. B. Sheldon  
Recycled paper

## BULLSNAKE

*Pituophis catenifer sayi*  
Protected

### BASIC ID

This 4-6.5' snake has a variable pattern along its length. The tail is golden with black rings. The mid-body has blotches of dark brown to reddish-brown on pale yellow. The neck is mottled with black and white. Its thick, triangular head shape is distinctive.

### HABITS

Prey is mostly small mammals. This rare snake lives in sand and bluff prairies, oak savannas, and in pine and oak barrens.

### FUN FACT

The bullsnake is one of the loudest hissing snakes in the world. Hissing is mostly all bluff, thus its name.

### FOR INFORMATION

[www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er)

ER-106D 2008



Photo: A. B. Sheldon  
Recycled paper

## EASTERN RACER

*Coluber constrictor*  
Protected

### BASIC ID

This sleek, slender snake has a uniform color and specimens vary from light to dark blue, gray, or green. Hatchlings are heavily mottled with numerous dark blotches.

### HABITS

Racers eat rodents and other reptiles. They prefer bluff and other dry prairies, savannas and fields with sandy soils.

### FUN FACTS

Racers are among the fastest snakes in North America. They can quickly climb bushes and small trees to escape danger.

### FOR INFORMATION

[www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er)

ER104I 2003



Photo: A. B. Sheldon  
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## GRAY RATSNAKE

*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](http://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 and 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](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er)

ER 106F 2008



Photo: A. B. Sheldon  
Recycled paper

## EASTERN MASSASAUGA RATTLESNAKE

*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*  
Endangered

### BASIC ID

This pit viper is a heavy-bodied 1.5-3' snake is tan to grayish with many large blotches on its back and many smaller blotches on its sides. The tail is ringed and has an obvious dark rattle at the end. A dark stripe runs from each eye onto the neck.

### HABITS

They primarily eat small rodents. They inhabit floodplain sedge meadows, wet prairies and adjacent grassy uplands.

### FUN FACT

Heat sensing pits in the face allow them to "see" warm-blooded animals through infrared imaging.

### FOR INFORMATION

[www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er)

ER-106G 2008



Photo: A. B. Sheldon  
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## EASTERN MILKSNAKE

*Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum*

### BASIC ID

This 2-3' snake has a beige to gray background with large reddish or brown blotches on the back and smaller blotches on its sides. The head has a whitish line between the eyes and a white blotch near its neck. The belly is white with black checks.

### HABITS

Milk snakes feed on rodents and small snakes. They live in savannas, upland hardwoods, prairies, old fields and pastures.

### FUN FACTS

Newly hatched babies are scarlet red and white. Contrary to old wives' tales, milksnake do not milk cows.

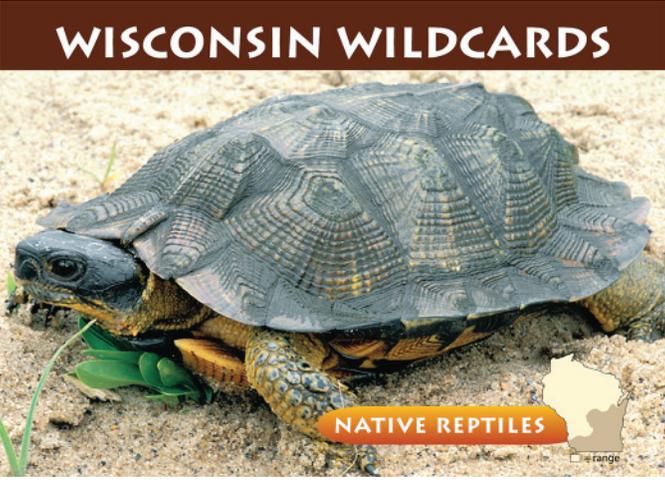
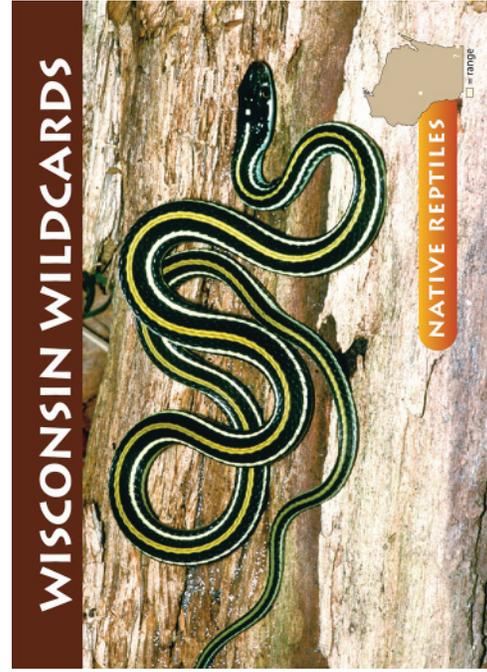
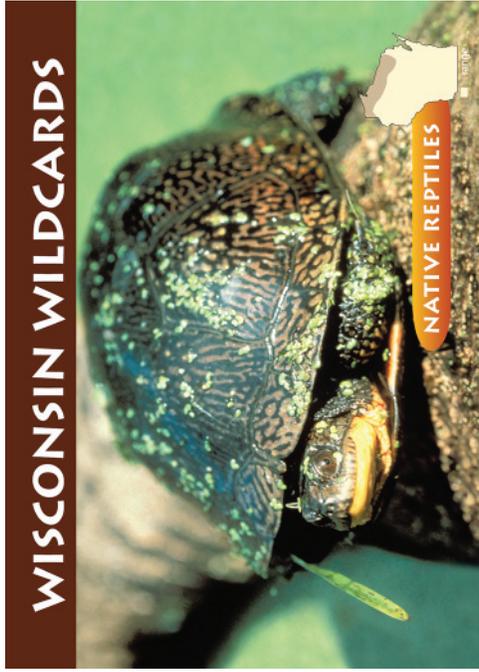
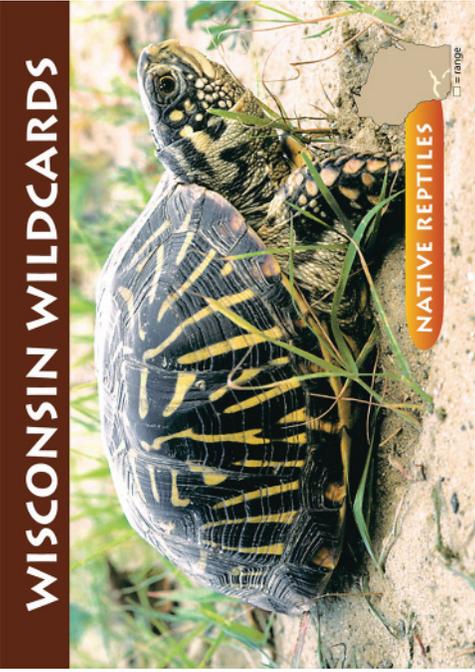
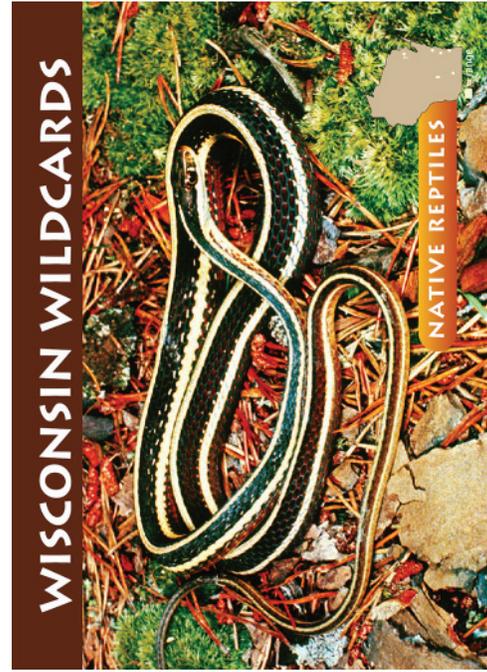
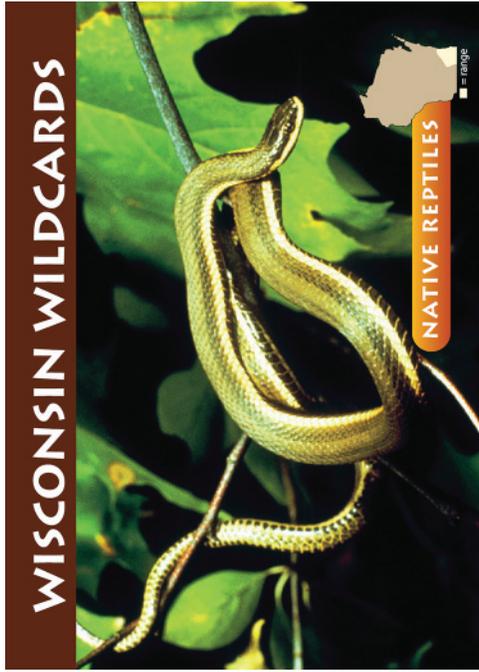
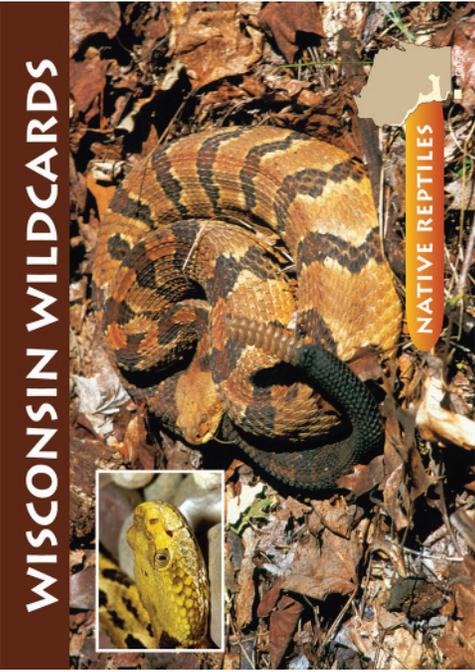
### FOR INFORMATION

[www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er)

ER-106H 2008



Photo: A. B. Sheldon  
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## NORTHERN RIBBON SNAKE

*Thamnophis sauritus*  
Endangered

### BASIC ID

This 1.5-2.5' snake resembles other garters but is more slender. Its underside is white, often grading into yellow near the very long tail, and its lips are creamy white with no barring.

### HABITS

They eat amphibians, fish and caterpillars. They live in sphagnum bogs in south central and eastern Wisconsin.

### CONSERVATION

It is critical that the few remaining bogs in southern and eastern Wisconsin be protected.

### FOR INFORMATION

[www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er)

ER-106J 2003



Photo: Ohio Dept. Natural Resources  
Recycled paper



## 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](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er)

ER-106L 2003



Photo: Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources  
Recycled paper



## TIMBER RATTLESNAKE

*Crotalus horridus*  
Protected

### BASIC ID

This thick 3-4' snake has a yellow, brown or gray body with dark brown to black jagged crossbars. The head is light gold. The tail is jet black with a tan rattle at the end.

### HABITS

They eat a variety of small rodents. They live on bluff prairies with rock outcroppings, oak forests and in old fields.

### CONSERVATION

Prevent the needless killing of this venomous snake. Manage bluff prairies by cutting and burning to reduce brush and trees.

### FOR INFORMATION

[www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er)

ER-106M 2008



Photo: A. B. Sheldon  
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## WESTERN RIBBON SNAKE

*Thamnophis proximus*  
Endangered

### BASIC ID

This is a 1.5-2.5' very slender gartersnake with a long tail. Its lateral stripes are greenish-white and are located on scale rows three and four. Its lip scales and underside are white.

### HABITS

Ribbon snakes eat tadpoles and young frogs. They are found in or adjacent to marshy, wetland habitats.

### CONSERVATION

Only six sightings are recorded for Wisconsin. The protection of occupied habitats is essential.

### FOR INFORMATION

[www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er)

ER-106O 2003



Photo: A. B. Sheldon  
Recycled paper



## BLANDING'S TURTLE

*Emydoidea blandingii*  
Threatened

### BASIC ID

The 6-10" shell is blackish with yellow flecks, elongated and domed. The bottom is hinged. The chin is bright yellow.

### HABITS

Their diet includes invertebrates, tadpoles, fish and berries. They prefer marshy areas with dense vegetation, but can live in many aquatic habitats. They can also live on land. Habitat loss and car kills are major causes affecting populations.

### FUN FACT

Blanding's turtles must live 17-20 years before they can breed. This fact limits population recovery following habitat loss.

### FOR INFORMATION

[www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er)

ER-106C 2008



Photo: A. B. Sheldon  
Recycled paper

## 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](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er)

ER-106K 2008



Photo: A. B. Sheldon  
Recycled paper

## 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](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er)

Photo: A. B. Sheldon  
Recycled paper

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