

Queen Snake

Queen Snake (*Regina septemvittata*) - Pl.9

Identification: 15" - 36 3/4". Ground color is tan to dark brown, with a yellow stripe low on the side. Three faint dark stripes on upper side of body are seldom apparent. The underside is yellow, with four brown stripes. This is a slender snake. Scales are keeled; anal plate is divided. A species of crayfish snake, this species has a restricted diet of freshly molted crayfish.

Where to find them: Very rare in New Jersey. It dwells where crayfish are available and abundant; habitats usually include stream and rivers with rocky bottoms. Can be observed in the water, basking along the shoreline, or under nearby rocks or other debris.

When to find them: Active May through October.

Range: The historic range is primarily a strip along the Delaware River, about 10 miles wide at the Burlington-Mercer County border. It narrows in the Northern Region through Mercer County to include the extreme southern tip of Hunterdon County. In the Southern Region, the range extends to northern Gloucester County riverbanks.

Conservation Status: Proposed for state listing in 2001, there have been no recorded sightings of the Queen Snake in New Jersey since 1977. Decreases in Queen Snake numbers might be partially explained by stream channelization, water pollution, and stream bank erosion, all of which may have impacted the presence of its primary food source (crayfish).

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Key Features

- Slender snake, brown in color.
- Yellow stripe along lower side & yellow belly with four brown stripes that run the length of the body.
- Scales keeled.



New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife ~ 2003



Excerpt from: Schwartz, V. & D. Golden, "Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey". New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife 2002.

Order the complete guide at - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/products.htm>