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Nature Flashcards

Snakes

Based on Nature Quiz
By Phil Huxford
TMN-COT Meeting November, 2013

Texas Master Naturalist
Cradle of Texas Chapter

Yellow-bellied Water Snake Plain-bellied Water Snake

Nerodia erythrogaster flavigaster



- Elliptical eye pupils
- Bright yellow underneath
- Found around ponds, lakes, swamps, and wet bottomland forests
- 2 – 3 feet long

Broad-banded Water snake

Nerodia fasciata confluens



- Dark, wide bands separated by yellow
- Bold, dark checked stripes
- Strong swimmer
- 2 – 4 feet long

Blotched Water Snake

Nerodia erythrogaster transversa



- Black-edged; dark brown dorsal markings
- Yellow or sometimes orange belly
- Lives in small ponds, ditches, and rain-filled pools
- Typically 2 – 5 feet long

**Diamond-back Water Snake
Northern Diamond-back Water Snake**

Nerodia rhombifer



Photo by Dave Brandes

- Heavy-bodied, large girth
- Can be dark brown
- Head somewhat flattened and wide
- Texas' largest Nerodia
- Strikes without warning and viciously
- 4 – 6' long

**Western Mud Snake
Mud Snake**

Farancia abacura



Photo by J.D. Wilson
<http://srelherp.uga.edu/snakes/>



Juvenile

Photo by J.D. Wilson
<http://srelherp.uga.edu/snakes/>

- Lives in our area but rarely seen
- Glossy black above
- Red belly with black lines in belly
- Found in wooded swampland and wet areas
- Does not bite when handled but pokes tail like stinger
- 3 – 4 feet long

Texas Coral Snake
Micrurus fulvius tener



- Blunt head; shiny, slender body
- Round pupils
- Colors red, yellow, black
- Lives in partly wooded organic material
- Usually 2 – 3 feet long
- **Record: 47 ¾ inches in Brazoria County**
- **'Red touches yellow – kill a fellow. Red touches black – venom lack.'**

**Southern Copperhead
Copperhead**
Agkistrodon contortrix contortrix



- Hourglass, dark cross bands over light tan color
- Found everywhere in Brazoria County
- Typically 1 – 2 feet; record is 3 feet 4 inches
- Yellowish tail tips in young

Western Cottonmouth
Agkistrodon piscivorus leucostoma



Photos by Carl J. Franklin
<http://www.uta.edu/>

- Chunky body, stubby tail, angular
- Flat-topped head, wide jaws
- Typically dark and lack luster
- Found typically in small ponds, ditches, and rain-filled pools
- 1 – 2 feet long but could be up to 4 feet long

Canebrake Rattlesnake
Timber Rattlesnake

Crotalus horridus



Photo by J.D. Wilson
<http://srelherp.uga.edu/snakes>

- Greyish brown to pinkish grey
- Reddish brown stripe along spine
- Found in moist lowland forests and woodlands near river
- 4 – 5 feet long; record 6 feet 4 inches
- Mild temperament; not easily aroused

Western diamondback rattlesnake

Crotalus atrox

T E X A S



Cradle of Texas Chapter



- Black and white bands on tail
- Lateral head markings
- Tail has segments
- Found in plant-covered sand dunes
- 3 – 4 feet; record 6 feet in Rio Grande Valley
- Responsible for no snake fatalities in Texas