

# Eastern Fox Snake

**Scientific Name:** *Elaphe vulpina gloydi*

**Class:** Reptilia

**Order:** Squamata

**Family:** Colubridae



The length is 3 to 6 feet. Coloration is yellowish or light brown marked with bold chocolate-brown to black blotches down the midline of the back and tail. There are two alternate rows of smaller blotches on the sides. The belly is yellow with dark squarish blotches. A dark band runs from the eye to the angle of the mouth. A second band runs from eye to mouth. This snake is often mistaken for a copperhead.

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## Range

Extreme southern Canada, south to Indiana and west to Nebraska

## Habitat

Rolling prairies, farmland, wooded streams, marshes, and dunes

## Gestation

55 to 70 days

## Litter

6 to 29 firm, leathery eggs

## Behavior

They are excellent climbers but are usually seen on the ground near streams or marshes. When excited they often assume an S-shape with mouth open, and vibrate their tails on surface litter, sounding like a rattlesnake. They may gather in large numbers at favored hibernation sites, usually abandoned rock-walled wells.

## Reproduction

Mating is from April to July. The female lays eggs from late June to early August. The young, 10 to 13 inches in length, hatch from late August to October.

## Wild Diet

Meadow voles, deer mice, eggs, fledgling birds, newborn rabbits