

Cornsnake

Scientific Name: *Elaphe guttata*

Class: Reptilia

Order: Squamata

Family: Colubridae



They are 24 to 72 inches long, orange or brownish–yellow. They have large black-edged red blotches down the middle of the back and alternating rows of black and white marks on their belly like a checker board pattern. Newborns are not as brightly colored as the adults.

Range

Eastern United States from southern New Jersey through Florida; west into Louisiana and parts of Kentucky

Habitat

Wooded groves, wood lots, meadows, barns, and abandoned buildings

Behavior

They are mostly diurnal. They do climb trees and go into abandoned buildings looking for food. They are very secretive, spending most of their time underground in rodent burrows or hiding under loose bark, logs, or rocks.

Reproduction

They breed from March to May. They deposit 10 to 30 eggs in late May to July in rotting vegetation or similar locations with enough heat and humidity to incubate them for 60 to 65 days at about 82 degrees F. Hatchlings are 10 to 15 inches long and mature in 18 to 36 months.

Wild Diet

Young feed on lizards and tree frogs; adults on larger animals (i.e. mice, rats, birds and bats). Do not eat every day.