Do’s and don’ts when living or recreating in venomous snake country.

- Stay on the trails when hiking where it is easier to see wildlife.
- Keep your property free of mulch and debris piles. Mulch is attractive to their home ranges and most likely will not survive in man-made areas.
- Keep your lawn mowed short to deter snake presence and so that you are more visible to the naked eye.
- Keep your domestic animals (grain-fed, beef, cows, sheep, hogs, chickens, ducks, and geese) indoors. These animals are more likely to attract snakes to your home.
- Keep your composting material that generates heat as it decomposes, crevices in the house and outbuilding foundations are sealed. Animals bite to protect themselves when they feel threatened.
- Keep your property free of mulch and debris piles. Mulch is attractive to their home ranges and most likely will not survive in man-made areas.
- Keep your lawn mowed short to deter snake presence and so that you are more visible to the naked eye.
- Keep your domestic animals (grain-fed, beef, cows, sheep, hogs, chickens, ducks, and geese) indoors. These animals are more likely to attract snakes to your home.
- Keep your composting material that generates heat as it decomposes, crevices in the house and outbuilding foundations are sealed. Animals bite to protect themselves when they feel threatened.

Snakes of New Jersey.

Introduction

Snakes have lived around for over 100,000,000 years and adapt to their environment. In New Jersey, 22 species of snakes can be found in the most directly populated state in the country. One of our state’s treasures is the beautiful reptile and amphibian wildlife seen throughout the state. This will attract animal enthusiasts and snake lovers alike.

Snakes in New Jersey.

New Jersey’s snake population fluctuates during the past 10 years as more suburbanization has increased. Urban sprawls, new urbanization has been a primary cause, but pollution, changing land use, and weather disturbances all contribute to the reduction of our state’s population. The crotaline is a state species of concern, and the rattlesnake is ranked II on our state’s lists. In fact, the rattlesnake is listed as endangered or threatened in all but one northeastern state. Aside from the small venomous snakes, the state of New Jersey is home to many non-venomous species and the rattlesnake.

Do’s and don’ts when living or recreating in venomous snake country.

- Do not attempt to capture or touch a snake.
- Do not rub the area or apply any type of disinfectant.
- Do not apply a tight bandage. Individuals should take the time to temporarily locate and remove venomous snakes from private lands upon request. They do dislodge venomous snakes from homes using the broom handle to push vegetation aside.

Do not apply a tight bandage. Individuals should take the time to temporarily locate and remove venomous snakes from private lands upon request. They do dislodge venomous snakes from homes using the broom handle to push vegetation aside.

The milk snake integrade is a common species found in NJ. It is often misidentified as NJ’s eastern kingsnake due to similar morphological features such as the color pattern and size. The milk snake is a non-venomous species that is often used as a pet in captivity unless it is at an educational or rehabilitation facility.

Snakes of New Jersey.

Snakes: Descriptions, Pictures and Range Maps

1. Corn snake (Elaphe guttata guttata)
2. Eastern milk snake (Lampropeltis triangulum picta)
3. Eastern kingsnake (Lampropeltis getula meansi)
4. Corn snake (Elaphe guttata guttata)
5. Northern scarlet snake (Storeria occipitomaculata)
6. Eastern kingsnake (Lampropeltis getula meansi)
7. Northern scarlet snake (Storeria occipitomaculata)
8. Eastern milk snake (Lampropeltis triangulum picta)
9. Eastern kingsnake (Lampropeltis getula meansi)
10. Eastern milk snake (Lampropeltis triangulum picta)
11. Eastern kingsnake (Lampropeltis getula meansi)
12. Eastern milk snake (Lampropeltis triangulum picta)
13. Eastern kingsnake (Lampropeltis getula meansi)
14. Eastern milk snake (Lampropeltis triangulum picta)
15. Eastern kingsnake (Lampropeltis getula meansi)
16. Eastern milk snake (Lampropeltis triangulum picta)
17. Eastern kingsnake (Lampropeltis getula meansi)
18. Eastern milk snake (Lampropeltis triangulum picta)
19. Eastern kingsnake (Lampropeltis getula meansi)
20. Eastern milk snake (Lampropeltis triangulum picta)
21. Eastern kingsnake (Lampropeltis getula meansi)
22. Eastern milk snake (Lampropeltis triangulum picta)

Snakes: Descriptions, Pictures and Range Maps

1. Corn snake (Elaphe guttata guttata)
2. Eastern milk snake (Lampropeltis triangulum picta)
3. Eastern kingsnake (Lampropeltis getula meansi)
4. Corn snake (Elaphe guttata guttata)
5. Northern scarlet snake (Storeria occipitomaculata)
6. Eastern kingsnake (Lampropeltis getula meansi)
7. Northern scarlet snake (Storeria occipitomaculata)
8. Eastern milk snake (Lampropeltis triangulum picta)
9. Eastern kingsnake (Lampropeltis getula meansi)
10. Eastern milk snake (Lampropeltis triangulum picta)
11. Eastern kingsnake (Lampropeltis getula meansi)
12. Eastern milk snake (Lampropeltis triangulum picta)
13. Eastern kingsnake (Lampropeltis getula meansi)
14. Eastern milk snake (Lampropeltis triangulum picta)
15. Eastern kingsnake (Lampropeltis getula meansi)
16. Eastern milk snake (Lampropeltis triangulum picta)
17. Eastern kingsnake (Lampropeltis getula meansi)
18. Eastern milk snake (Lampropeltis triangulum picta)
19. Eastern kingsnake (Lampropeltis getula meansi)
20. Eastern milk snake (Lampropeltis triangulum picta)
21. Eastern kingsnake (Lampropeltis getula meansi)
22. Eastern milk snake (Lampropeltis triangulum picta)
7. Northern pine snake (Pituophis melanoleucus): 15-18" at hatching. The most common species. The tongue is red and may be used to elicit a puff when threatened. A heat sensitive organ on top of the head (vomeronasal organ). It has a series of small scales around the head. They are mild to moderately venomous if handled. The pine snake climbs trees readily and is defined towards the tail of the snake. They have keeled scales. They hibernate from November to April. The pine snake is found statewide in woodland and suburban residential areas, the black racer can be found under stones, boards, and rotten wood in hedge-rows, wood lots, and suburban areas, this snake is found in moist soil under nearby walls, and in rural and semi-suburban woodlands and lowland habitats. It is limited to our state. They have smooth scales. Black rattlesnakes as they have a gray color, the lighter background color with the darker pattern forming an "hourglass" shape, wider bands and blotches. They have smooth scales. One to eight eggs are laid in late June and early July. Eggs are laid in June or July and hatch in late August.

8. Black rat snake (Elaphe obsoleta): 9"-203/4"L. A common snake of the sandy habitat as it burrows short distance under nearby rocks. These snakes are almost identical to the northern brown snake except that its scales are more rounded. They have smooth scales. The eggs are laid in late June and early July. Eggs are laid in June or July and hatch in late August.

9. Eastern smooth earth snake (Virginia striatula): 10"-11". This snake is an earthworm eater. It is almost identical to the eastern hognose snake except that it has a pointy head and tail. The underside and the first one or two rows of scales on the lower sides are pink. They have weakly keeled or keeled giving them a rough texture. The eggs are laid in late June and early July. Eggs are laid in June or July and hatch in late August.

10. Eastern hognose snake (Heterodon platyrhinos): 15-18". A mild to moderately venomous snake. The tongue is red and may be used to elicit a puff when threatened. A heat sensitive organ on top of the head (vomeronasal organ). It has a series of small scales around the head. They are mild to moderately venomous if handled. The hognose snake climbs trees readily and is defined towards the tail of the snake. They have keeled scales. They hibernate from November to April. The hognose snake is found statewide in woodland and suburban residential areas, the black racer can be found under stones, boards, and rotten wood in hedge-rows, wood lots, and suburban areas, this snake is found in moist soil under nearby walls, and in rural and semi-suburban woodlands and lowland habitats. It is limited to our state. They have smooth scales. Black rattlesnakes as they have a gray color, the lighter background color with the darker pattern forming an "hourglass" shape, wider bands and blotches. They have smooth scales. One to eight eggs are laid in late June and early July. Eggs are laid in June or July and hatch in late August.

11. Queen snake (Regina septemfasciata):7"-18"L. This snake occurs in rocky, wooded areas with rocky streams and in rivers with rocky substrate. They dwell where crayfish are available. They have smooth, light green scales with a white, yellow, or orange belly. They have smooth scales. The eggs are laid in late June and early July. Eggs are laid in June or July and hatch in late August.

12. Northern brown snake (Storeria dekayi dekayi):15-363/4"L. This snake is almost identical to the eastern hognose snake except that it has a pointy head and tail. The underside and the first one or two rows of scales on the lower sides are pink. They have weakly keeled or keeled giving them a rough texture. The eggs are laid in late June and early July. Eggs are laid in June or July and hatch in late August.

13. Southern ringneck snake (Diadophis punctatus): 5"-451/2"L. This snake is almost identical to the northern ringneck snake except that it has a long, plain black snake. The eyes are defined with golden ring. The underside of this snake is white. The eggs are laid in late June and early July. Eggs are laid in June or July and hatch in late August.

14. Eastern smooth earth snake (Virginia striatula): 10"-11". This snake is an earthworm eater. It is almost identical to the eastern hognose snake except that it has a pointy head and tail. The underside and the first one or two rows of scales on the lower sides are pink. They have weakly keeled or keeled giving them a rough texture. The eggs are laid in late June and early July. Eggs are laid in June or July and hatch in late August.

15. Eastern worm snake (Cylindrophis amoenus): 12"-28"L. The eastern worm snake is a common species. They are almost identical to the eastern ribbon snake except that its scales are more rounded. They have smooth scales. The eggs are laid in late June and early July. Eggs are laid in June or July and hatch in late August.

16. Northern ringneck snake (Diadophis punctatus): 5"-451/2"L. This snake is almost identical to the southern ringneck snake except that its scales are more rounded. They have smooth scales. The eggs are laid in late June and early July. Eggs are laid in June or July and hatch in late August.

17. Southern ringneck snake (Diadophis punctatus): 5"-451/2"L. This snake is almost identical to the northern ringneck snake except that it has a long, plain black snake. The eyes are defined with golden ring. The underside of this snake is white. The eggs are laid in late June and early July. Eggs are laid in June or July and hatch in late August.

18. Eastern garter snake (Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalus): 20"-451/2"L. This snake occurs in moist soil under nearby rocks. These snakes are almost identical to the eastern ribbon snake except that its scales are more rounded. They have smooth scales. The eggs are laid in late June and early July. Eggs are laid in June or July and hatch in late August.

19. Eastern ribbon snake (Thamnophis sauritus sauritus):18"-53"L. This is one of the two species of ribbon snake in NJ. This snake is found in moist soil under nearby rocks. These snakes are almost identical to the eastern ribbon snake except that its scales are more rounded. They have smooth scales. The eggs are laid in late June and early July. Eggs are laid in June or July and hatch in late August.

20. Smooth green snake (Opheodrys vernalis): 18"-40"L. This snake is found in grasslands, open woods, and other sparsely wooded areas. The eggs are laid in late June and early July. Eggs are laid in June or July and hatch in late August.

21. Rough green snake (Dipsosaurus fuliginosus): 18"-40"L. This snake is found in grasslands, open woods, and other sparsely wooded areas. The eggs are laid in late June and early July. Eggs are laid in June or July and hatch in late August.

22. Copperhead (Agkistrodon contortrix mokasen): 20"-45"L. This species is one of the two species of copperhead in NJ. It is a mild venomous species. Male copperheads are a bit darker overall than the females. The eggs are laid in late June and early July. Eggs are laid in June or July and hatch in late August.

23. Timber rattlesnake (Crotalus horridus): This is one of the three species of rattlesnake in NJ. It is a highly venomous species. It is well camouflaged in wooded areas. The eggs are laid in late June and early July. Eggs are laid in June or July and hatch in late August.

24. What to do if bitten by a venomous snake

If you encounter a venomous snake, you should keep a safe distance (at least 5 feet) and keep young children and pets at your side for comfort. Do not run from the snake. This may trigger a chase response. If you are bitten by a venomous snake, do not try to suck out the venom. This may cause the venom to spread more quickly. If you are bitten by a venomous snake:

1. Stay calm and quiet. This will decrease the likelihood of further venom being injected into your body.
2. Do not try to remove the venom from your body. This can cause the venom to spread more quickly.
3. Keep your arm below heart level to slow the spread of venom.
4. Apply ice to the bite site to reduce swelling and pain.
5. Call 911 immediately and do not attempt to drive yourself to the hospital.