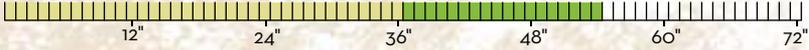


WESTERN FOXSNAKE

(*Pantherophis vulpinus*)



- Status:** Not listed, Species in Greatest Conservation Need
- Size:** 36 - 54 inches
- Active season:** Late April through October
- Scales:** Weakly keeled, divided anal plate
- Description:** This snake has a yellowish tan to gray background color with brown to black mid-dorsal blotches and a row of alternating smaller blotches along each side. Blotches are outlined in black. The head is a solid copper or brown color. The belly is pale yellow with brown or black markings. Young Foxsnakes typically have a lighter background color, and a dark bar between their eyes, extending to the corner of the mouth on each side.
- Diet:** Rodents, ground-nesting birds and their eggs
- Habitat:** Often found in riparian (river) areas, upland hardwood forests, pine barrens and prairies; typically near a river or stream. They overwinter below the frost line in rock crevices, mammal burrows, wells and stone foundations.
- Hunting:** Constrictor
- Reproduction:** Egg layer, clutch size is 7 - 29 eggs, with an average of 14.
- Other name(s):** Pine Snake, Copperhead
- Notes:** This snake is frequently encountered in people's homes, especially homes with stone foundations. The previous scientific name for this snake was *Elaphe vulpina*.



MNDNR-Barb Perry

Adult Western Foxsnake.



Christopher E. Smith

Juvenile Western Foxsnake. Juveniles of this species have different coloration than adults.

Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. 2010. [Snakes and Lizards of Minnesota](#).
Nongame Wildlife Program, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, St. Paul, Minnesota. 67 pp.