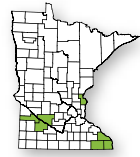


COMMON FIVE-LINED SKINK

(*Plestiodon fasciatus*)



- Status:** Special Concern, Species in Greatest Conservation Need
- Size:** 5 to 8 inches in total length, snout to vent length maximum of $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches
- Active season:** Early May to September
- Description:** A small lizard with a long tail and small legs. Its back is marked with five distinct yellow stripes. These stripes form a “Y” on top of the head. The body in juveniles and females is shiny black, while males are brown to gray with less distinct, or no, stripes. During mating season, the male’s nose, cheeks, lips and throat turn bright orange-red.
- Dorsal Scales:** Smooth, shiny and large
- Diet:** Roaches and spiders, along with crickets, beetles, moths, snails and other small invertebrates
- Habitat:** South-facing, rocky outcrops, old woodlots, along moist forest edges, and openings in pine barrens, oak savannas and dry northern hardwood forests. They overwinter below the frost line in rock fissures and cracks below the frost line.
- Hunting:** Active forager
- Reproduction:** Egg layer, clutch size is 5-13 eggs, with an average of 9
- Notes:** Common Five-lined Skinks easily lose their tail to predators, with the detached tail continuing to wiggle, to distract the predator. The tail does re-grow over time, but it is not as long or colorful as the original. Juvenile Common Five-lined Skinks have a bright blue tail. The previous scientific name for this lizard was *Eumeces fasciatus*.



MNDNR-Carol Hall

Adult Common Five-lined Skink.



MNDNR-Carol Hall

Juvenile Common Five-lined Skink. Note the blue tail.

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.