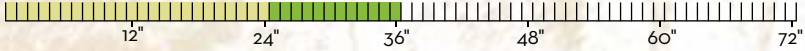
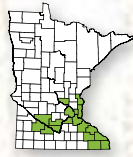


MILK SNAKE

(*Lampropeltis triangulum*)



- Status:** Not listed, Species in Greatest Conservation Need
- Size:** 24 - 36 inches
- Active season:** Mid April through October
- Scales:** Unkeeled, single anal plate
- Description:** Medium-sized snake with a gray or light brown background color and reddish brown to brown blotches outlined in black along the back. The main row of larger blotches is bordered with smaller blotches along the sides of the snake. A light "Y" or "V" shaped marking often occurs on the back of the neck. The belly has a distinctive black and white or yellow checkerboard pattern. Hatchlings often have bright red dorsal blotches.
- Diet:** Primarily rodents, but also lizards, eggs, and other snakes
- Habitat:** Found in deciduous forests in association with rocky areas. They are also found in woodlots, savannas, pastures and prairies. They are often found near farm buildings and homes with stone foundations. They overwinter below the frost line in rock crevices, mammal burrows, cisterns, and stone foundations.
- Hunting:** Constrictor, primarily nocturnal
- Reproduction:** Egg layer, clutch size is 1 - 24 eggs, with an average of 9.
- Other name(s):** None known
- Notes:** This snake is frequently encountered in people's homes, especially homes with stone foundations, and around barns.



Barney Oldfield

Adult Milk snake.



MNDNR-Jeff LeClerc

Juvenile Milk snake. 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.