

Northern Black Racer

Northern Black Racer (*Coluber constrictor constrictor*) - Pl.14

Identification: 34" - 77". The Northern Black Racer is a long black snake with a slender, round body. The underside is black, or more rarely slightly lighter than the back. The chin and throat are marked with white. The iris of the Black Racer's eye is brown. Unlike the adult, the young Northern Black Racer has a much lighter gray ground color and is marked with dark brown or gray blotches on the back and smaller spots on the side. The blotched pattern fades and the ground color becomes darker with age. The Northern Black Racer is fast (hence the name), alert and agile. If threatened, it may vibrate its tail in dry leaves; if cornered, it will vigorously defend itself. Scales are smooth; anal plate is divided.

Where to find them: Common in fields, open woodlands, and may occasionally be found in suburban areas.

When to find them: Active April through September.

Range: Entire state.

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(*Coluber constrictor constrictor*) - text pg. 24



Juvenile black racer



Key Features

- Entirely black with some white on chin and throat.
- Body long and slender.
- Scales smooth.
- Juveniles: highly patterned with dark blotches on a gray background.



New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife ~ 2002



Excerpt from: "Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey"
Order the complete guide at - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/products.htm>