

Eastern Hognose Snake

The next snake, the Eastern Hognose Snake, is unlike any other snake in New Jersey, both in its appearance and in its amazing behavioral repertoire.

Eastern Hognose Snake (*Heterodon platyrhinos*) - Pl.12

Identification: 20" - 45 1/2". This heavy-bodied snake gets its name from its upturned snout. The tendency of the Eastern Hognose Snake to play dead when threatened is key to its identification. The snake will hiss, spread its head and neck, and as a last resort will stick out its tongue and roll over on its back. The typical ground color varies from golden to rusty to gray, with a pattern of brown or black blotches; there is considerable variability in color and pattern, so some individuals may have little discernible pattern and some may be melanistic. The underside is mottled on a yellow, light gray, or pinkish background, with the tail portion noticeably lighter than the rest of the underside. Scales are keeled; anal plate is divided.

Where to find them: Most often found in a variety of habitats with sandy substrate.

When to find them: April through September.

Range: Entire state.

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(*Heterodon platyrhinos*) - text pg. 23



Key Features

- Color variable: spotted or entirely black.
- Upturned snout.
- Scales keeled.
- Plays dead when threatened or hisses & spreads head and neck.



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Excerpt from: Schwartz, V. & D. Golden, "Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey". New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife 2002.

Order the complete guide at - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/products.htm>