

Northern Pine Snake

The next species, the Northern Pine Snake, is the only representative of its genus in our area.

Northern Pine Snake - *State Threatened Species* - PI.17

(*Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus*)

Identification: 48" - 100". The Northern Pine Snake is a long snake with a slightly pointed snout. Ground color is white, gray, or cream, marked with black or dark brown blotches. The blotches tend to be blurred at the front half of the snake, and become more clearly delineated towards the tail end. In addition, the blotches are browner towards the tail. The Northern Pine Snake will hiss and defend itself vigorously when threatened or molested. Scales are keeled; anal plate is single.

Where to find them: Limited to the sandy habitat of the New Jersey Pine Barrens. It is a secretive snake that tends to burrow.

When to find them: Active April through October. The Northern Pine Snake can be found throughout the day, but is most often out in the morning and late afternoon during warm months.

Range: Locally in Southern Region: Ocean, Burlington, Atlantic, and Cape May Counties; eastern Cumberland, Gloucester, and Camden Counties; and southern Monmouth Counties.

Conservation Status: Like Corn Snakes, Pine Snakes face multiple threats. Habitat loss and alteration, illegal collecting, and off-road recreation vehicle use all threaten the well being of Pine Snake populations.



Northern Pine Snake

(*Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus*) - text pg. 26

Key Features

- Large snake with slightly pointed snout.
- Dark blotches on a white, gray, or cream colored body.
- May hiss noisily when threatened.
- Scales keeled.



State Threatened



New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife ~ 2003



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>