

Eastern Ribbon Snake

Eastern Ribbon Snake (*Thamnophis sauritus sauritus*) - Pl.11

Identification: 18" - 40". The Eastern Ribbon Snake looks like a skinny, high-contrast Garter Snake. The Eastern Ribbon Snake is distinguished from the Eastern Garter Snake by having a longer tail (about 1/3 the total length of the snake), a much more slender body, and side stripes on scale rows three and four (counting up from the ventral scales). The ground color is black or brown; stripes are bright yellow. The underside is pale yellow to pale green, with a brown stripe on the edge of the belly and the first two scale rows on the sides. Scales are keeled; anal plate is single.

Where to find them: Usually found in or near water; it prefers slow-moving or quiet waters, swamps, bogs and other wetlands. It tends to stay at the surface of the water.

When to find them: Active April through September.

Range: Entire state.

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Key Features

- A slender snake with three bright yellow stripes extending the length of the dark body.
- Tail exceptionally long, comprising a third of the total length of the snake.
- Scales keeled.



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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>