Black Rat Snake

Black Rat Snake (Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta) - Pl.16

Identification: 34" - 101". Like the Northern Black Racer, the Black Rat Snake is a long, plain black snake. A major distinction is the body shape:

in the Black Rat Snake, the belly and sides are flat (like a loaf of bread). The Black Rat Snake is mostly plain black above. However, when the skin is distended, some skin between the scales may appear white. The underside is white or pale yellow, faintly mottled with gray or brown, grayer towards the tail, with black squares near head; chin and throat are white. The iris of the eye is gray, not too different from the general coloration of the animal. Young Black Rat Snakes are light gray, with gray or brown blotches. Most of the scales are weakly keeled; anal plate is divided.

Where to find them: Found in habitats very similar to those of the Northern Black Racer, including woodlands, rocky hillsides, and meadows. The Black Rat Snake is a climber, often found in trees or rock crevices.

When to find them: Active April through September.

Range: Entire state.

Black Rat Snake

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Key Features

- Plain black and shiny.
- Chin and throat may be white and some white may occur between the scales
- Scales weakly keeled. Juveniles: highly patterned with black blotches on a gray



background.









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