Northern Copperhead

Northern Copperhead - VENOMOUS - PI.19

(Agkistrodon contortix mokasen)

Fish and Wildlife

Identification: 22" - 53". The Copperhead, with its red-brown ground color and darker crossbands, is easily camouflaged in the leaf litter of a forest floor. The dark brown, saddle-shaped crossbands are narrow on top and wide on the sides. The Copperhead has scattered dark spots in lighter areas. As the name indicates, the triangular, unmarked head is a copper color. The young have a yellow tail tip. Scales are weakly keeled; anal plate is single. **Where to find them:** Favors rocky, wooded uplands and wooded wetlands; may be found hiding in rotting woodpiles, or perfectly camouflaged on leafy forest floor. The Copperhead will den with other species of snakes in the winter, particularly the Timber Rattlesnake.

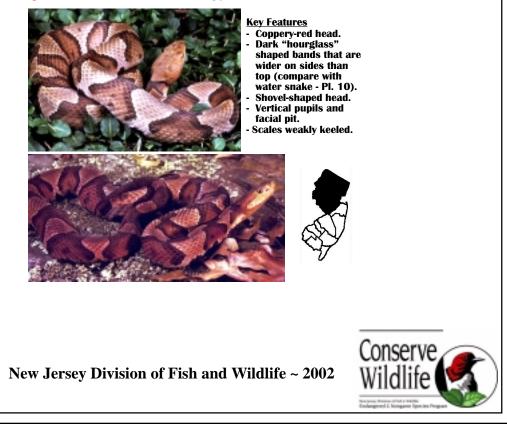
When to find them: Active May through October.

Range: Rocky talus slopes and forest habitats in the Northern Region. These habitats are scattered throughout the Northern Region, but are primarily located in Sussex, Warren, Hunterdon, and Passaic Counties.

WARNING: Do NOT attempt to handle this snake!

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