

Blotched Water Snake

Nerodia erythrogaster

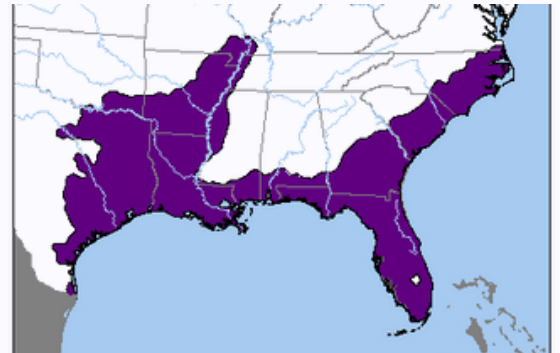
ANIMAL CHARACTERISTICS

Appearance: Blotched water snakes can vary in color, ranging from brown to gray, or olive green, often marked with dark blotches along their backs.

Their undersides can be yellow, brown, red, or green. Adult snakes typically measure 24 to 40 inches in total length, which is approximately the size of two beach balls to an adult-sized golf club.

Habitat: These aquatic snakes are almost always found near permanent water sources, such as lakes, ponds, or streams.

Diet: They primarily feed on aquatic prey, including fish and amphibians.



RANGE

Blotched water snakes range through much of the southeastern U.S., but is absent from the Florida peninsula and the higher elevations of the Appalachian Mountains.

WHERE DO I LIVE IN THE ELM FORK NATURE PRESERVE?

Find me near the pond in the back of the preserve. I'm often seen basking on emergent vegetation or floating on the water surface.

NON-VENOMOUS OR VENOMOUS?

The blotched water snake is non-venomous but is frequently mistaken for venomous snakes due to its appearance and defensive behavior. The snake's coloration may resemble that of certain venomous species like the cottonmouth. When threatened, blotched water snakes may flatten their heads, hiss, and strike.

