

Black Rat Snake



RANGE IN IOWA

- Found throughout bluffland along the Mississippi and slightly inland

FUN FACTS

- One of the longest snakes found in Iowa. The record is 101 inches long!
- Can climb trees up to 40 feet high and spend days hiding in tree hollows
- Hibernates over the winter with other black rat snakes or snakes of other species
- Can vibrate its tail to produce a rattle-like sound
- Nonvenomous and active during the day (diurnal)
- Patterns and coloration offer good camouflage against bark and on woodland forest floors

APPEARANCE

- 40 to 70 inches in length
- Adults have a shiny, unmarked black head and neck with white undermarkings
- Body is generally black or brown, but can include white, yellow, or red blotched patterns

STATUS

- **PROTECTED.** Illegal to kill or collect in Iowa.

HABITAT

- Prefers heavily wooded areas

DIET

- Mice, chipmunks, voles, shrews, birds, eggs, frogs, lizards, and even full-grown squirrels

