Brown Snake

APPEARANCE
- Measures 13 to 18 inches
- Varying shades of gray or brown
- Light stripe bordered by black spots runs down the back
- Unmarked cream, pinkish, or yellowish belly

RANGE IN IOWA
- Statewide, except for the northwest

STATUS
- PROTECTED. Illegal to kill or collect in Iowa

DIET
- Earthworms, slugs, snails, soft-bodied insects, and sometimes frogs and tadpoles

HABITAT
- Mostly found around bogs, marshes, streams, ponds, and lakes
- Prefer open grasslands with woodland borders

FUN FACTS
- Nonvenomous and painless bite
- Very adaptable and can be found in cities and backyards
- Hibernates in rock crevices, road embankments, and bridges
- Newborn snakes are about 4 inches and nearly black, with a light neck collar
- Also called the Dekays snake after naturalist James Edward Dekay
- Generally diurnal (active during the day)