Red-bellied Snake

APPEARANCE

- Bright red or pink belly with no markings
- Measures only 7 to 10 inches
- Dark brown to light tan, or sometimes gray with rust red stripes

STATUS

- PROTECTED. Illegal to kill or collect in Iowa.

HABITAT

- Mostly woodlands, often near marshes, lakes, or other water sources

DIET

- Slugs, earthworms, and insect larvae

RANGE IN IOWA

- Throughout northeastern Iowa

FUN FACTS

- Iowa's smallest species of snake
- Mass migrates in the spring and fall as it travels to and from hibernation sites
- Spends winters in rock crevices, ant mounds, or other animals' burrows
- Nonvenomous and will not bite, but might release musk
- Very secretive and likes to hide from predators under rocks, logs, or leaves
- Has special teeth and jaws that allow it to extract snails from their shells