

# Milk SNAKE



## MILK SNAKE

Scientific Name: *Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum*  
Range: Ontario, it is widespread and locally common in southern Ontario

The Milk Snake is non-venomous. It is sometimes mistaken for a rattlesnake, because it will shake its tail when threatened, causing grasses to rustle. Milk Snakes are often killed by vehicles and humans. This snake is listed as a Species of Special Concern in Ontario.

## APPEARANCE

The Milk Snake can grow up to one metre long or more. It usually has red blotches on its back with black borders. The blotches can also be brown or even green. It is the only snake in Ontario that is reddish.

## HABITAT AND FOOD

This snake eats small mammals and ground-nesting birds. It catches them with its teeth and then subdues them using constriction. It hunts mainly at night and spends the day hiding and resting. The Milk

Snake can live in a wide range of habitats. It is often seen near farm buildings where rodents can be found.

## PROTECTION

The Milk Snake is listed as a “specially protected species” in the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*. This act prohibits hunting and trapping of the Milk Snake. These snakes can only be kept in captivity for research or conservation management with special permission from the Ministry of Natural Resources.