



# BiodiversityWorks

wildlife research, monitoring & mentoring

## Snakes of Martha's Vineyard



T. Tynning

### Smooth Green Snake

*Opheodrys vernalis*

12 - 24 inches

- found in open habitats.
- eat spiders, caterpillars and other insects.
- they partially incubate eggs internally, then lay them June - September.

### Milk Snake

*Lampropeltis triangulum*

24 - 48 inches

- color can vary, but saddle patches have black edges.
- often around stonewalls, barns, wood piles, and foundations.
- eat small mammals (mice).
- lay eggs June - July.



J. Mays



T. Tynning

### Ring-necked Snake

*Diadophis punctatus*

9 - 20 inches

- bright yellow/orange belly and ring around neck.
- found in damp areas of forested habitat and in damp basements.
- eat small salamanders, slugs, insects, and worms.
- lay eggs in June - July.

### Red-bellied Snake

*Storeria occipitomaculata*

8 - 12 inches

- reddish brown, gray, or black back, with red or orange belly.
- typically a woodland snake.
- eat slugs, worms, and frogs.
- incubates eggs internally and bears young late July - Sept.



Bill Byrne



J. Mays

## Ribbon Snake

*Thamnophis sauritus*

18 - 36 inches

- long-tailed with three bold stripes.
- found near ponds, shallow wetlands, and marshes.
- eat frogs, small fish, and salamanders.
- incubates eggs internally and bears live young August - September.

## Garter Snake

18 - 40 inches

- pattern highly variable, and some lack stripes.
- very common and found in a variety of habitats.
- eat worms, salamanders, insects, frogs, fish, birds, and small mammals.
- incubates eggs internally and bears live young July - August.

*Thamnophis sirtalis*



J. Mays



Adult

B. Clifford

## Black Racer

*Coluber constrictor*

36 - 60 inches

- large, black snake with white chin and throat.
- juveniles patterned with solid colored tail.
- active during the day in grassland, shrub and forest edge habitats.
- eat mice and other small mammals, insects, frogs, other snakes, bird eggs and nestlings.
- lay eggs in June and July.
- populations are declining.



Juvenile



## Protect Our Snakes



- All Martha's Vineyard snakes are harmless.
- They do not bite, unless you handle them.
- Snakes help us by eating **mice, slugs, and insect pests** around our yards and gardens.

## Report Snakes You See

You can map your snake sightings on our website:

[www.biodiversityworksmv.org/snakes](http://www.biodiversityworksmv.org/snakes)