Snakes of the Midwest

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Ectotherms
Little to no parental care
Skin
Juveniles
What makes a snake a snake?

- No eyelids or external ears
- Ribs/scale arrangement
- Jaws
- Teeth
- Jacobson’s organ
- Shedding
Habitat Needs
Food
Hunting Strategies

- Active
- Ambush
- Grab and Swallow
- Constriction
- Venom
Mating and Reproduction

- Egg layers
- “Live” births

Mating “balls”
Summer searching
Seasonality
A year in the life of a Snake in the upper Midwest
Upper Midwest Snake Year

Winter (Nov – Apr)

Spring (Apr – Jun)

Summer (Jun – Sept)

Fall (Sept – Nov)
Prairie Ringneck Snake

Western Worm Snake (E)

Lined snake
Plains Garter Snake

Eastern Garter Snake

Western ribbon snake

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Fox Snake

Black Rat Snake

Yellow-bellied Racer

Bullsnake (SC)
Managing for Snakes

Needs:

• Places for egg-laying
• Places to hibernate
• Places to bask
• Food
• Controlling exotic species
Providing nesting areas

J. Harding
Providing Places to Hibernate
Providing places to Bask
Controlling Exotic Species
Living with Snakes

How to discourage snakes from hanging out near your buildings
- food
- shelter
- thermoregulations
- hibernacula
Monitoring Snake Populations

- Coverboard surveys
- Visual searches
- Hibernaculum monitoring
Coverboard Surveys
Visual Searches
Monitoring Hibernacula
Thank you!