

missing

Have You Seen Me?



The Kirtland's Snake once made it's home in Western Pennsylvania. Now an endangered species, this elusive snake has not been documented in Pennsylvania for over 30 years, with most historical records from Allegheny, Butler, Jefferson and Westmoreland counties.

The Kirtland's Snake spends the majority of its time in mammal and crayfish burrows, and under leaf litter, logs, rocks, and human debris. It is primarily found around open wetlands, marshes, canals, wet prairies, wet pastures, forested wetlands, and floodplains. Urban ponds, parks, and vacant lots may also be home to these snakes.

This small two-foot snake varies from grey to reddish brown, with four rows of dark brown to black round alternating blotches, with a bright red to orange ventral (underside). This species may be confused with other snakes of Pennsylvania including the red-bellied snake, ring-neck snake, and queen snake.

The continued growth of industry and loss of habitat leave this species status unknown, with limited habitat distribution though out the state. With the help of the public, we hope to determine if the Kirtland's Snake still exists in Pennsylvania.

How you can help:

If you find a snake you believe may be a Kirtland's Snake, photograph the animal, document the place and time, and send in your report.

Identification Help:

To find more information on how to identify a Kirtland's Snake, including photographs and more characteristics, please visit <http://PAHERPS.com>

Reports:

Please send any information, reports, and photographs to Tim Maret of the Pennsylvania Herpetological Atlas. <http://webpace.ship.edu/tjmare/herp.htm>