**Blotched Water Snake**

***Nerodia erythrogaster transversa***

Source of Photos: [www.blairsociety.com](http://www.blairsociety.com)

**DESCRIPTION**

* Brown body with faint lines forming a pattern on its back
* Solid yellow chin and belly
* Small eyes with round pupils
* Average 3 feet long

**LIFE CYCLE**

* Breed in spring
* Young born in late summer or fall
* Ovoviviparous (Live-bearers) – young are 8”-10” in length
* Capable of bearing a brood of 90, but usually less.

**BEHAVIOR**

* Non-venomous
* Nasty disposition - sometimes mistaken for the venomous “water moccasin” or “cottonmouth.” Upon approach, it will coil up, vibrate its tail, assume a strike posture, and flatten its body near the head to appear larger than it is.
* When threatened, it will strike and bite, drawing blood.
* Exudes a foul-smelling musk odor

**HABITAT**

* In or near bodies of water
* Backyard fish ponds
* On tree branches over water

**FOOD**

* Fish, amphibians

**SOURCES**

* <http://bugsinthenews.com/blotched_water_snake%20042803.html>
* <http://www.austinreptileservice.net/blotches.html>
* <http://www.blairsociety.com/Nerodiaerythrogastertransversa.html>
* <http://hartmanprehistoricgarden.com/sa-nerodia_ery.html>
* <http://www.birdsandherps.com/bvsnakes/>
* <http://www.blairsociety.com/Herpetology.html>