**Broad-banded Water Snake**

***Nerodia fasciata confluens***



Photo by Jim Conrad, <http://www.backyardnature.net>

DESCRIPTION

* A subspecies of the Southern Watersnake.
* a medium-bodied species.
* Patterned with dark, wide, brown, olive or black bands, separated by lighter, irregular-shaped bands.
* The lighter bands are usually tan or light orange.
* Reddish-brown blotches are sometimes present on the sides.
* Round eyes with round pupils.
* The belly is boldly patterned in checkerboard blotches of dark red/brown and lighter tan/orange.
* 20-30 inches long

LIFE CYCLE

* Mate in the spring
* Live birth in the summer

BEHAVIOR

* Generally shy; will try to flee through the water rather than fight.
* When threatened, one will usually coil up, and flatten its head, making it look arrowhead-shaped.
* They will also vibrate their tail (which has no rattles) and emit foul smelling musk.
* They will strike out repeatedly at whatever is threatening them.
* Active day or night, but most foraging is done at night.

HABITAT

* In and around water, preferably quiet, shallow waters
* and in yards that are frequently watered.

FOOD

* Toads and frogs.

SOURCES

* <http://www.houstonherp.com/BroadBandedWS.html>
* <http://herpsofarkansas.com/Snake/NerodiaFasciata>
* <http://www.bugsinthenews.com/Texas%20Snake%20Web/Broad-banded%20Water%20Snake%20(Nerodia%20fasciata%20confluens)%20041107%20Cinco%20Ranch%20Katy%20Texas%20Christer%20R.htm>
* <http://www.birdsandherps.com/bvsnakes/>
* <http://www.backyardnature.net>
* *Texas Snakes; a Field Guide*, James R. Dixon and John E. Werler, UT Press, Austin, 2005, pp. 206-207.