**Southern Copperhead**

***Agkistrodon contortrix***

Photo by Bill Boothe, NatureInFocus.com

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**DESCRIPTION**

* Pale brown to light tan body, pinkish tint.
* Series of dark bands on their backs, narrow across the back and wide on the sides – look like hour glasses when viewed from above.
* Heat-sensing pits between the eyes and nostrils.
* Bright yellow tale at birth, which fades as they age. Adults are usually 2-3 feet long.
* Venomous

**BEHAVIOR**

* Diurnal (active in daylight) in early spring and late fall.
* Nocturnal during summer heat.
* Hibernate in cold weather.

**LIFE CYCLE**

* Males are sexually mature at 2 years;

females at 3.

* Mating season is spring and fall.
* Incubation time 105-110 days.
* 4-8 young born live, 7-10” long, weighing less than an ounce.
* Females provide no parental care after birth.
* Lifespan 6-8 years.

**HABITAT**

* Mixed pasture and wooded lowlands, especially river bottoms.
* Present in wooded suburbs

**FOOD**

* Juveniles eat insects, small frogs and toads, fish, reptiles and rodents.
* Adults eat mostly rodents.
* Eat about every 3 weeks.

**SOURCES**

<http://www.houstonherp.com/Copperhead.htm>

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/species/southerncopperhead/>

<http://natureinfocus.com/galleries/fauna/reptiles/snakes/>

!!! KATHERINE’S PHOTO !!!