**Timber Rattlesnake (Canebrake Rattlesnake)**

***Crotalus horridus***



Photo by John Pruett

**DESCRIPTION**

* Wide head, narrow neck
* Background color is usually gray, tan or brown
* On the back are dark chevrons, or V-shaped bands
* Orange stripe of varying shades and width runs from head to tail, sometimes fading on the last third of the snake
* Tail is black or dark brown, tipped with rattles
* Average 3 to 4 feet in length
* Venomous

**LIFE CYCLE**

* Mating is in early spring, once every two or three years for females
* Sexual maturity is reached at 3 years for males; 4 years for females
* Eggs are kept inside female body until they are ready to hatch.
* Litter consists of 5 to 20 young; no parental care is provided
* Lifespan is up to 10 years.

**BEHAVIOR**

* Mild mannered
* Diurnal during spring and fall; become nocturnal during the heat of summer.
* Hibernate in cold weather in dens, limestone crevices, often with Copperheads and Black Rat Snakes (Elaphe obsolete)

**HABITAT**

* Prefer moist lowland forests, hilly woodlands or thickets near permanent water sources
* Pregnant females sun themselves on open, rocky ledges

**FOOD**

* Small mammals, primarily
* Also small birds, frogs, other snakes, especially garter snakes

**SOURCES**

* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crotalus_horridus>
* <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/species/timberrattlesnake/>