**Western Ribbonsnake**

***Thamnophis proximus***



Photo by Thomas Marshall, <http://balconesherping.wordpress.com/>

DESCRIPTION

* Slender, medium bodied
* Black or brown, with 3 longitudinal light stripes
* Stripe down the center of the back is red in Central Texas, with other subspecies displaying bright yellow or pale orange
* Stripes down either side are pale yellow or cream
* Belly is pale
* Head is distinctly larger than neck
* Adults average 20-30 inches
* Eyes are moderately large, with round pupils

LIFE CYCLE

* Mate in spring
* Birth between July and September
* Average litter size is 8-13, ranging from 4-27
* Young are born live

HABITAT

* Lives along brushy or grassy margins next to still or moving bodies of water – ditches, tanks, rivers and streams

BEHAVIOR

* Usually diurnal, but nocturnal in the summer heat.
* Rainfall stimulates activity, probably because of the increased activity of its prey

FOOD

* Frogs, toads, salamanders, and their larvae
* Small fish
* Snails and slugs

SOURCES

* *Texas Snakes; A Field Guide*, James R. Dixon and John E. Werler, University of Texas Press, 2000, pp. 270-271.
* http://[www.arkive.org](http://www.arkive.org)/western-ribbon-snake/thamnaphis-proximus
* <http://balconesherping.wordpress.com/>