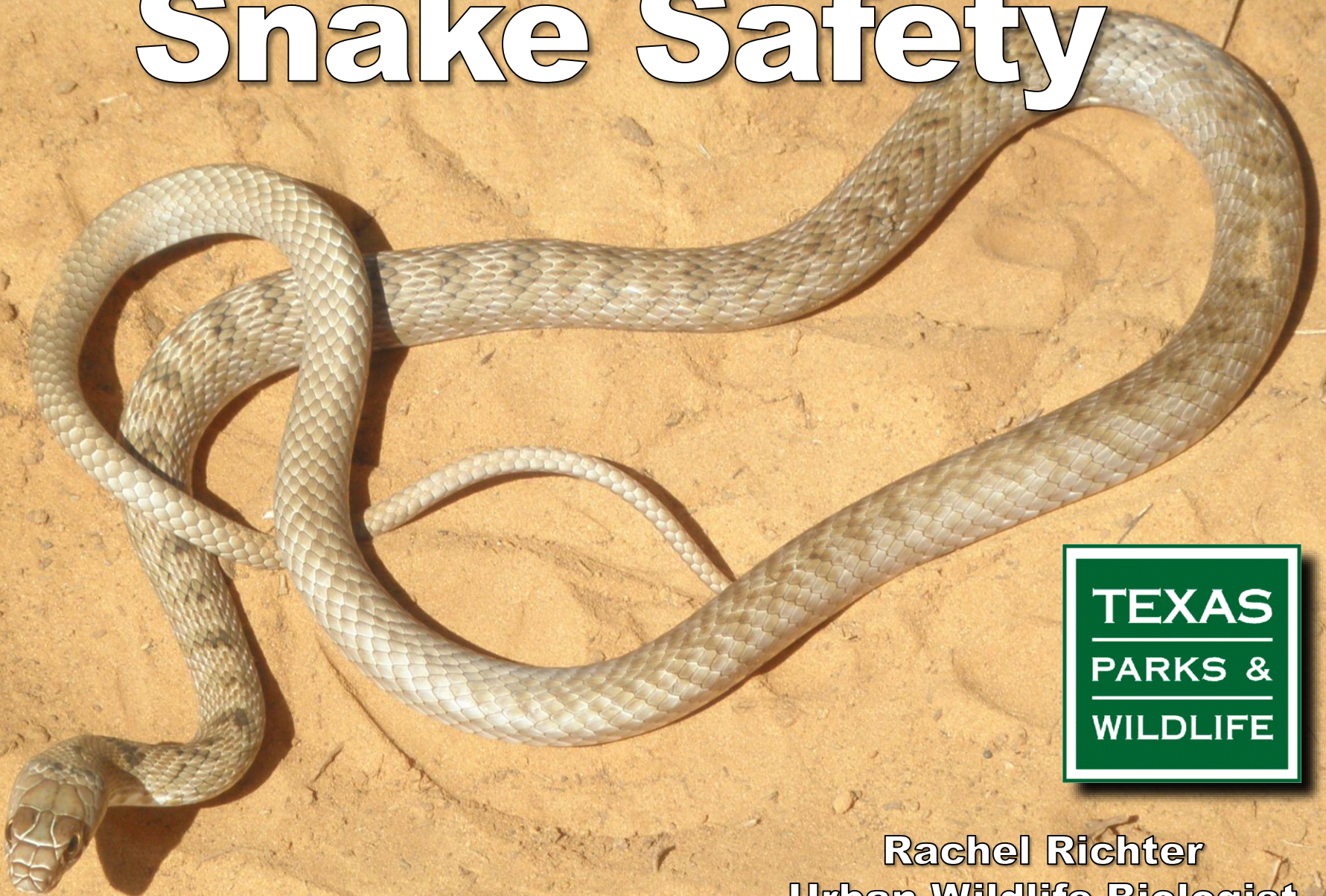


Snake Safety



TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

Rachel Richter
Urban Wildlife Biologist
Texas Parks and Wildlife

Ectothermic

- **Cold Blooded?**
 - **Body temperature dependent upon the environment**
- **Low energy requirements**
- **Regulate body temperature through behavior**

Feeding Adaptations

- **Highly developed Jacobson's organ**
- **Skulls with movable joints**
- **Constriction**
- **Venom**
- **Heat-sensing ability in pit vipers**



Benefits of Snakes

- Snakes are predators
- Snakes are prey
- Snake venom is being used to cure diseases



Commonly Misidentified Harmless Snakes



Commonly Misidentified Harmless Snakes



Commonly Misidentified Harmless Snakes



Unreliable Advice for Identifying Venomous Snakes....

- **Triangular shaped head**
- **Vertical “cat-eye” pupils**
- **Cottonmouths swim on top of water**
- **Look for heat-sensing pits**

Venomous Snakes in DFW Area

- **7 Species:**

- **Copperhead** (*Agkistrodon contortrix*)
- **Cottonmouth** (*Agkistrodon piscivorus*)
- **Western Diamondback Rattlesnake** (*Crotalus atrox*)
- **Timber Rattlesnake** (*Crotalus horridus*)
- **Massasauga** (*Sistrurus catenatus*)
- **Pigmy Rattlesnake** (*Sistrurus miliarius*)
- **Texas Coral Snake** (*Micrurus tener*)

Pit Vipers

- **Most venomous snakes in Texas**
- **Moveable fangs**
- **Heat Sensing pits**
- **Hemotoxic venom**



Copperhead

- **2 Subspecies**
- **Excellent camouflage**
- **Juveniles have bright yellow/green tail**



Cottonmouth

- **Variations in coloring**
- **Typically found near water**
- **Closely related to copperheads**
- **Typically 2-3 feet, chunky body**



Western Diamondback Rattlesnake

- “Diamond” pattern on back
- Black and white striped tail
- Typically 3.5-4.5 feet in length
 - Texas record is 92.5 inches



Timber Rattlesnake

- **Reddish brown stripe, chevron patterns on back**
- **Solid black tail**
- **State Threatened species**



Western Pigmy Rattlesnake

- Only about 18 inches in length
- Small rattle, not likely to hear
- Bites are extremely unlikely to be fatal



Massasauga

- About 2 feet in length
- Round blotches down back
- Reportedly “docile”



Coral Snake

- “Red on yellow kill a fellow...”
- Fixed fangs
- Neurotoxic venom
- Secretive and rarely seen



Snake Bite Statistics

- **An estimated 7,000-8,000 people get bit by venomous snakes annually in the U.S.**
 - **On average, 5 of those people will die**
- **You are 10 times more likely to die from a lightning strike!**
- **You are 40 times more likely to be killed by a deer!**



What NOT to do.....

- **DO NOT** apply tourniquets or constricting bands
- **DO NOT** attempt to suck out the venom
- **DO NOT** apply ice
- **DO NOT** drink alcohol
- **DO NOT** take aspirin
- **DO NOT** attempt to cut out the venom
- **DO NOT** apply electricity to the bite
- **DO NOT** attempt to catch the snake

If you get bitten....

- **Stay calm!**
- **Assume envenomation has occurred**
- **Remove all jewelry, watches, or tight fitting clothes**
- **Reduce movement of the bitten extremity and position it below the level of the heart**
- **Wash the bite area with a disinfectant**
- **Seek medical treatment as soon as possible**

Avoiding Snake Bites

- **Learn to identify snakes that are in the area**
- **Learn about snake habitats**
- **Be aware of when snakes are likely to be active**
- **Watch where your hands and feet are going**
- **Wear protective clothing**
- **If you see a snake, leave it alone!**

Snake ID Resources

- **What kind of snake is this? North Texas Facebook group:**
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/whatsnakeisthis/>
- **iNaturalist website and mobile app**
 - www.inaturalist.org

Who you are

You'll need to make an **iNaturalist account** and please only post your own personal observations

Where you saw it

Record both the coordinates of the encounter as well as their accuracy. You can obscure the location from the public

What you saw

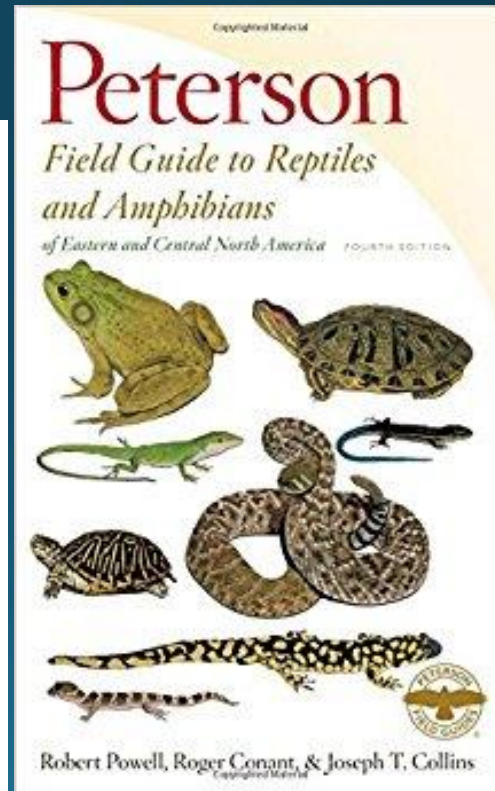
Choose a group of organisms like **butterflies** or better yet a specific organism like the **Monarch butterfly**. If you provide evidence you can leave this blank and the **community** can help

When you saw it

Record the date of your encounter, not the date you post it to iNaturalist

Evidence of what you saw

By including evidence like a **photo** or **sound**, the community can help add, improve, or confirm the identification of the organism you encountered. Help the community by taking clear well framed photos, by including multiple photos from different angles



Questions?



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