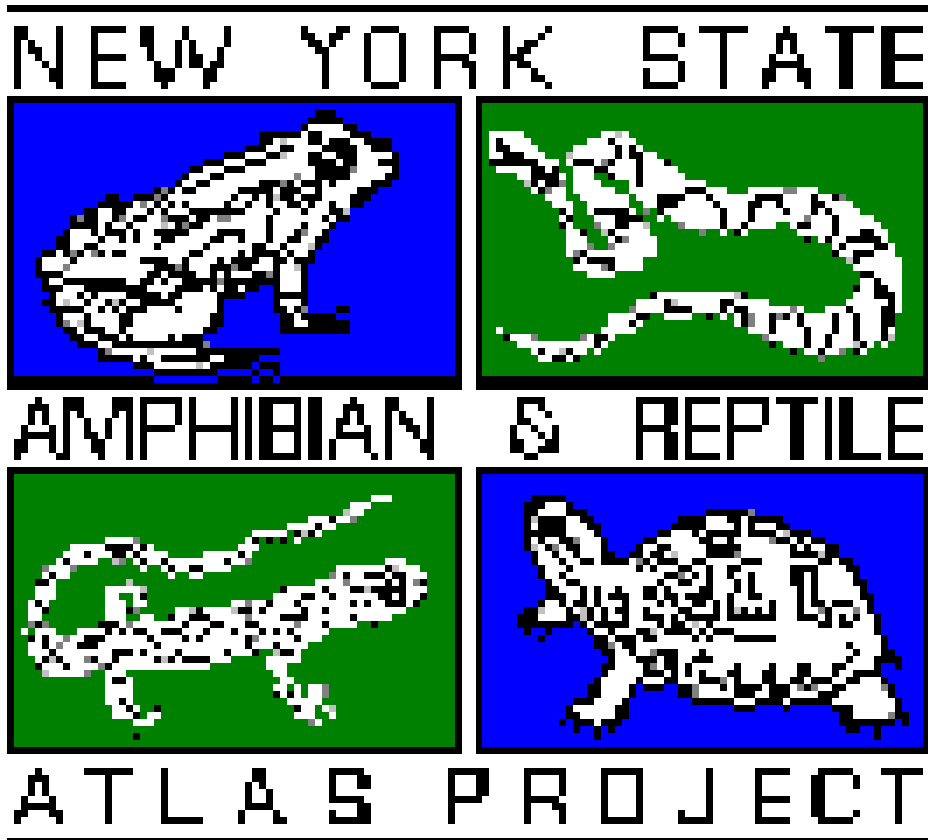


NYSDEC Herp Atlas Project

Lizards & Snakes Distribution Map



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

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About The Herp Atlas Project

The word "herp" is short for herpetofauna, which is the general term for amphibians and reptiles as a group. Frogs, toads, and salamanders are amphibians. Turtles, snakes, and lizards are reptiles.

The Amphibian & Reptile Atlas Project (Herp Atlas) was a ten-year survey (1990-1999) that was designed to document the geographic distribution of New York State's herpetofauna. There are approximately 70 species of amphibians and reptiles in New York State. They occur in a wide variety of habitats from the Adirondack Mountains to the Finger Lakes to Long Island's ocean waters, as well as in the cities and suburbs in between. Records prior to 1989 were also sought, and together the data was combined to form an overall NYS herpetological database.

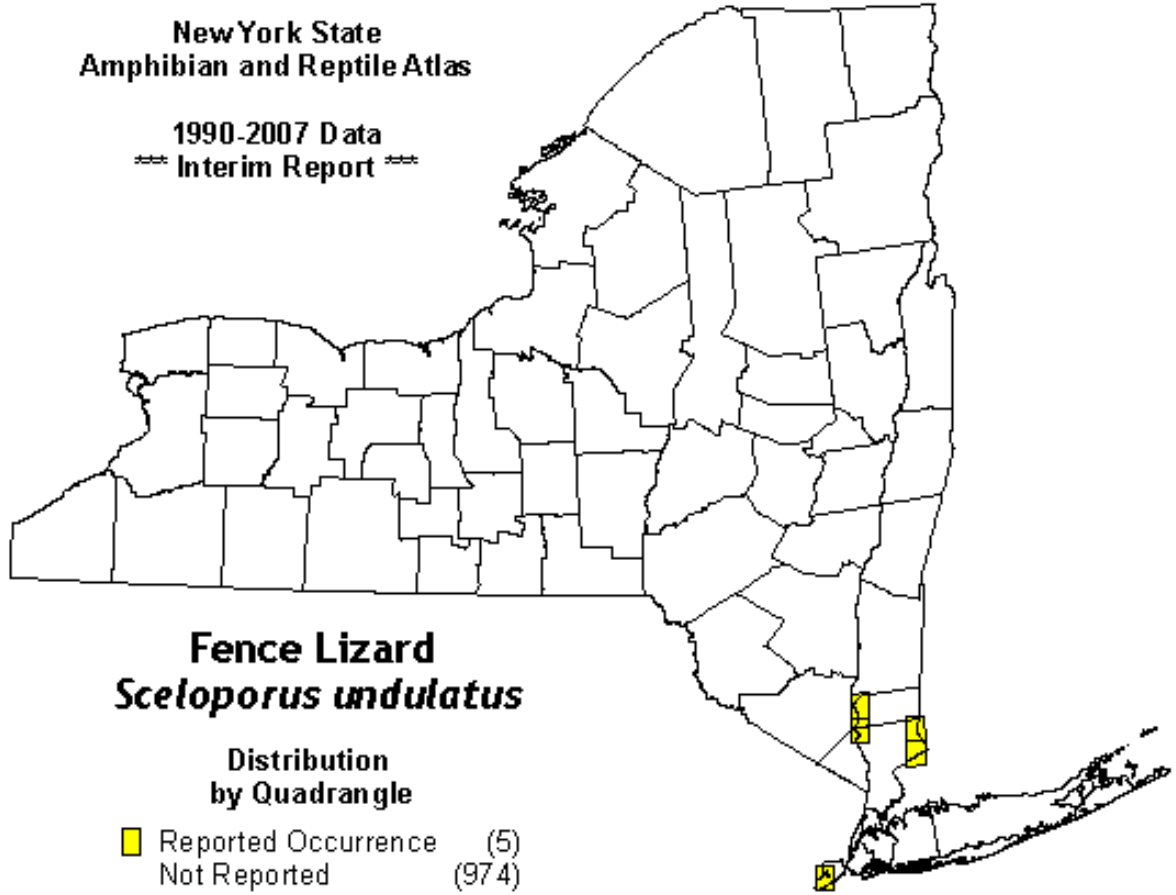
The unit of measurement for collecting atlas data is the USGS 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle. The goal was to record at least 20 species in each of these quadrangles. Some quadrangles, such as those in the lower Hudson Valley, have many more species present. Others, such as those in the Adirondacks and where there are high human populations, have fewer.

Purpose of the Herp Atlas Project

In order to monitor changes in populations and to make sound management decisions, we must have a reliable information base from which to work. The information gathered on the current status of our populations will help us to document what changes may be taking place.

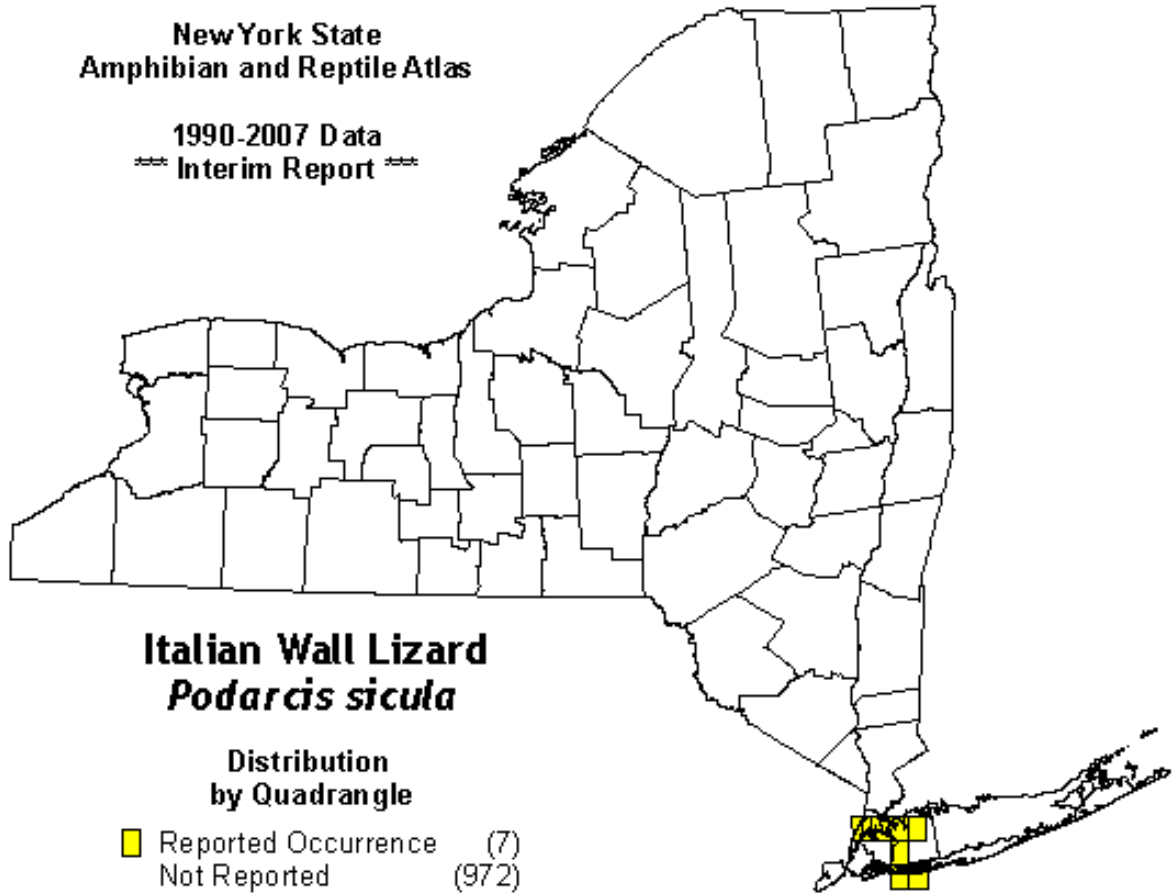
In the past decade or two there has been much discussion concerning the status of populations of amphibians. While there seems to be a general decline in this group of animals, long-term monitoring projects are the only way to address this problem with scientific accuracy.

Northern Fence Lizard
Sceloporus undulatus hyacinthinus



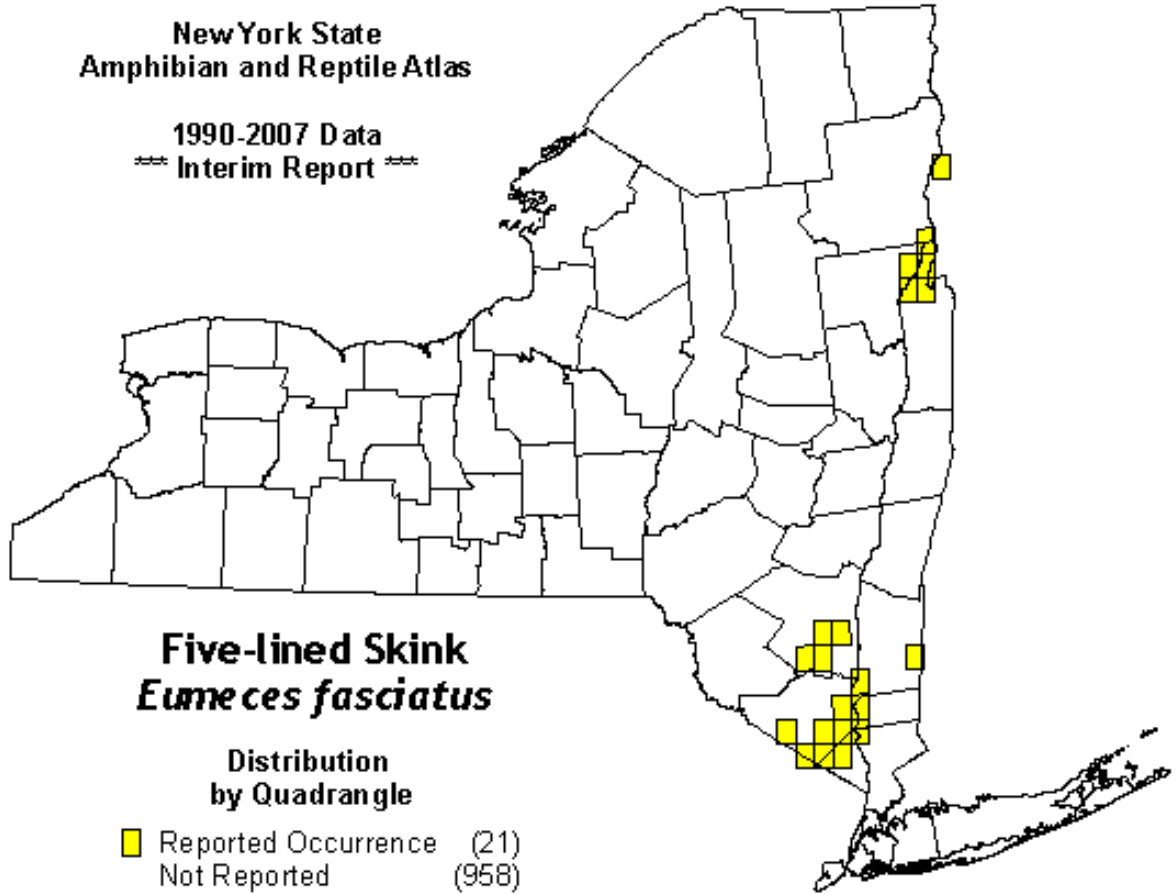
Italian Wall Lizard

Podarcis sicula



Five-lined Skink

Eumeces fasciatus

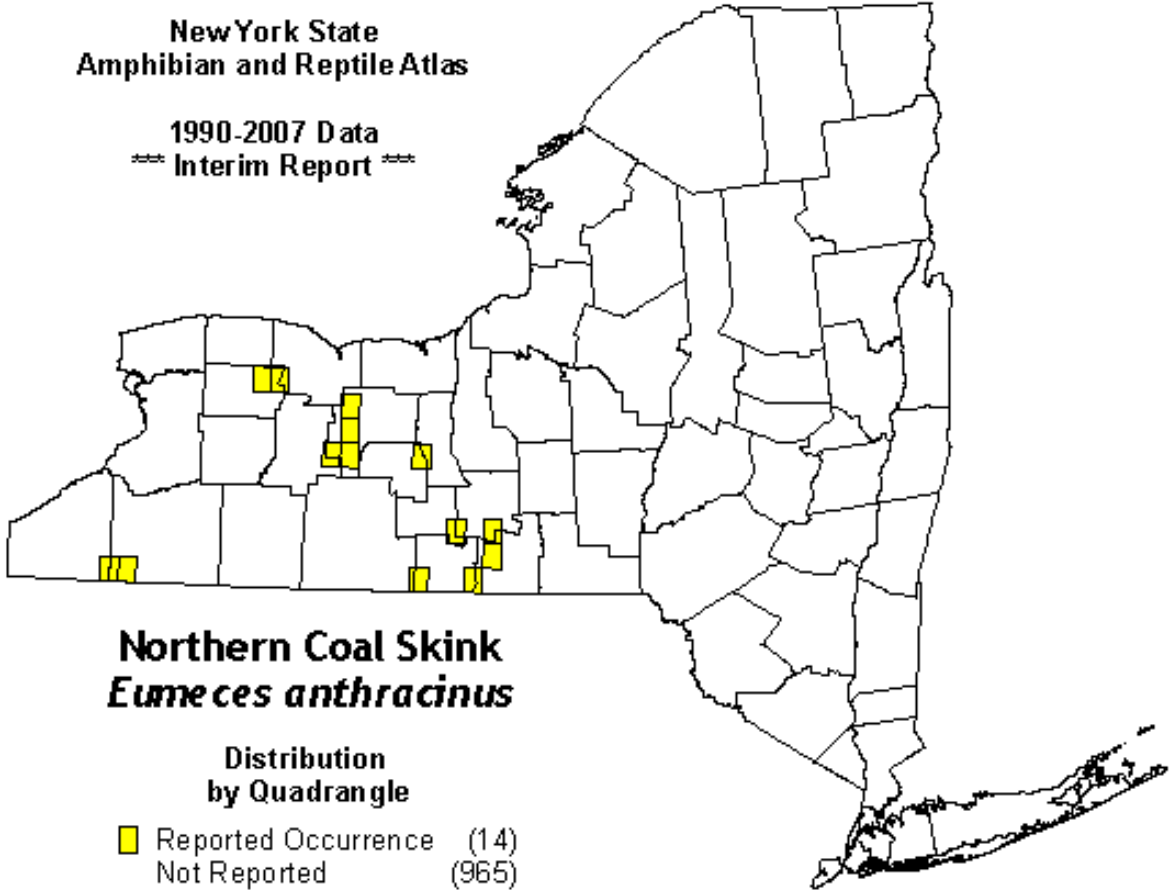


Northern Coal Skink

Eumeces a. anthracinus

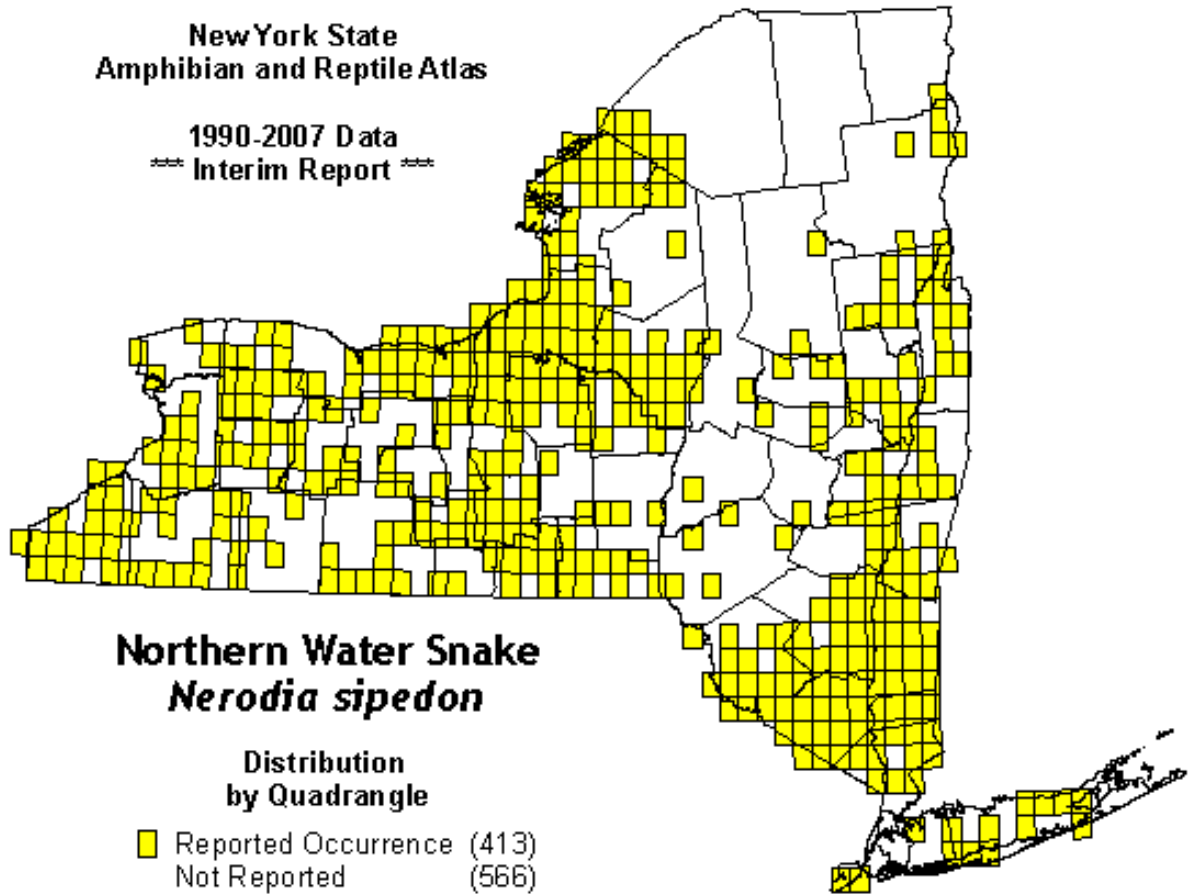
New York State Amphibian and Reptile Atlas

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Northern Water Snake

Nerodia s. sipedon

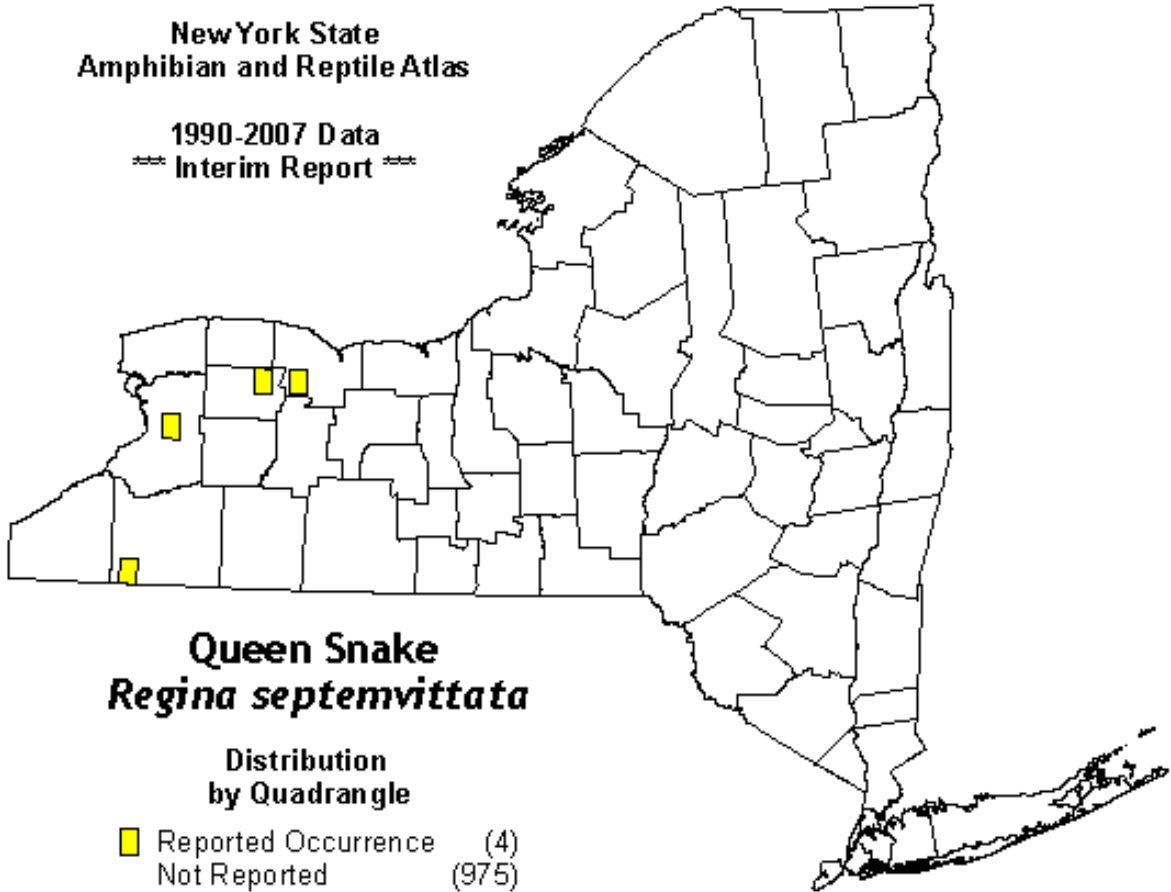


Queen Snake

Regina septemvittata

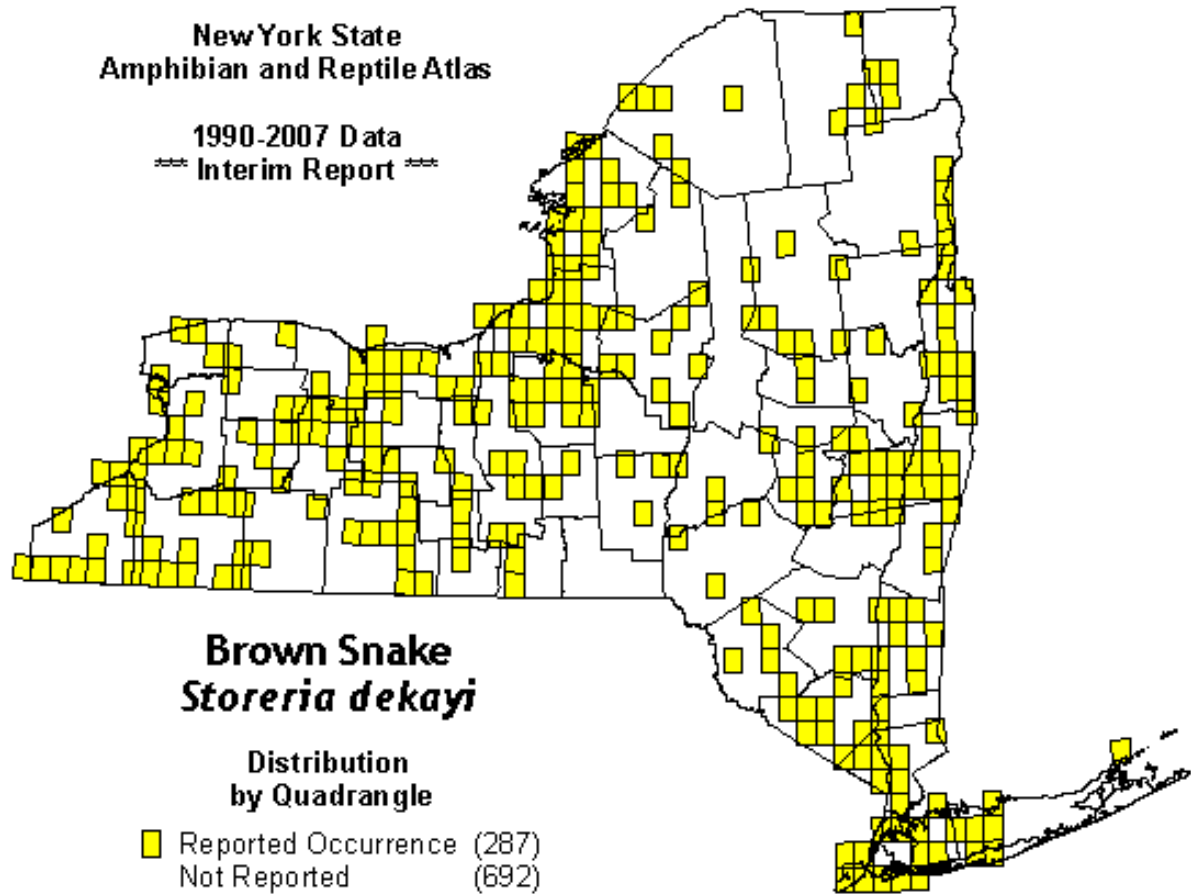
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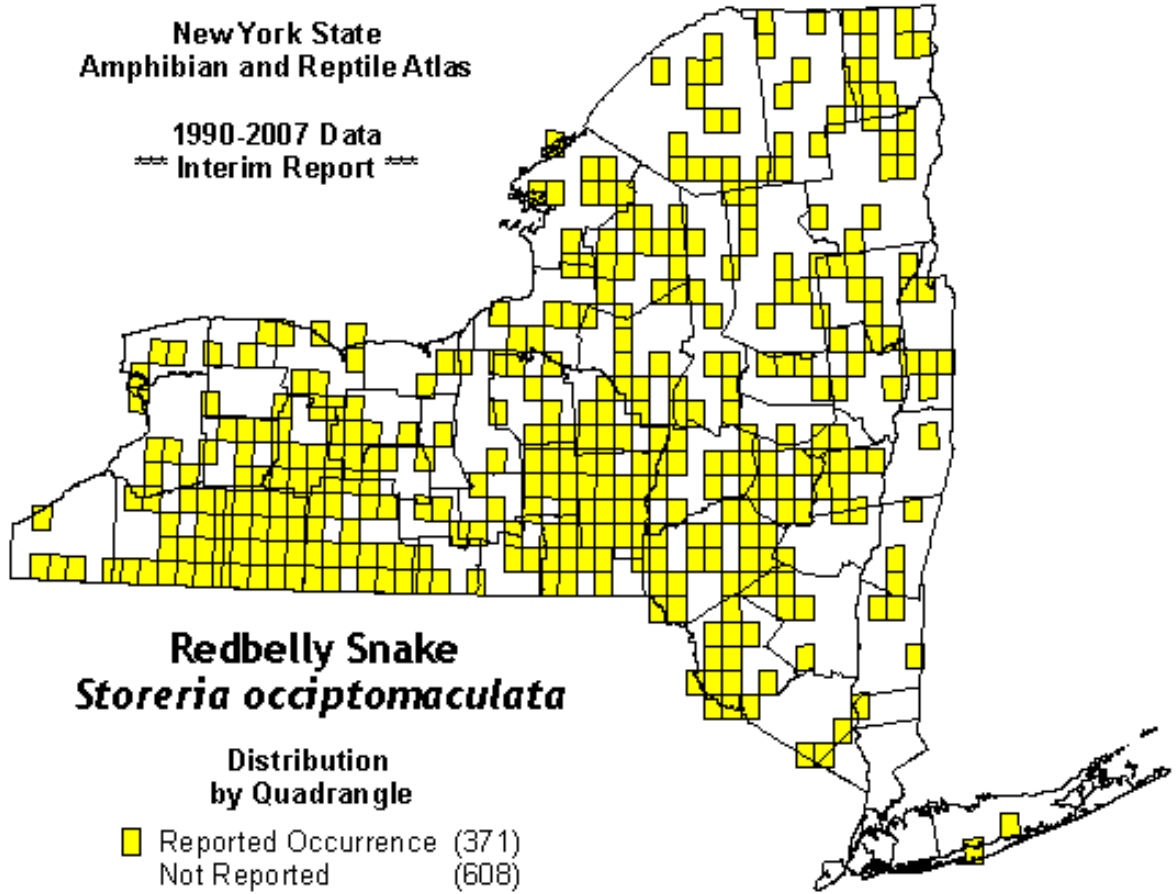
Northern Brown Snake

Storeria d. dekayi



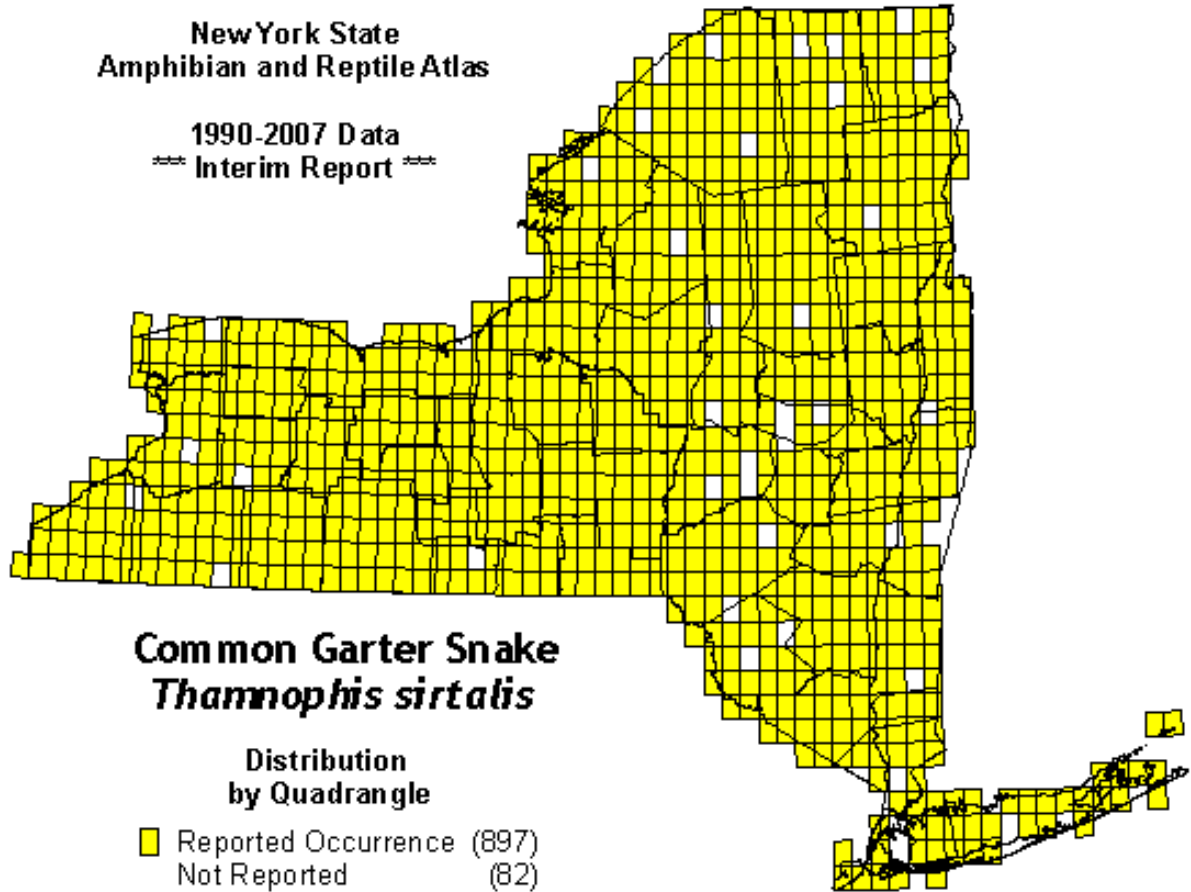
Northern Redbelly Snake

Storeria o. occipitamaculata



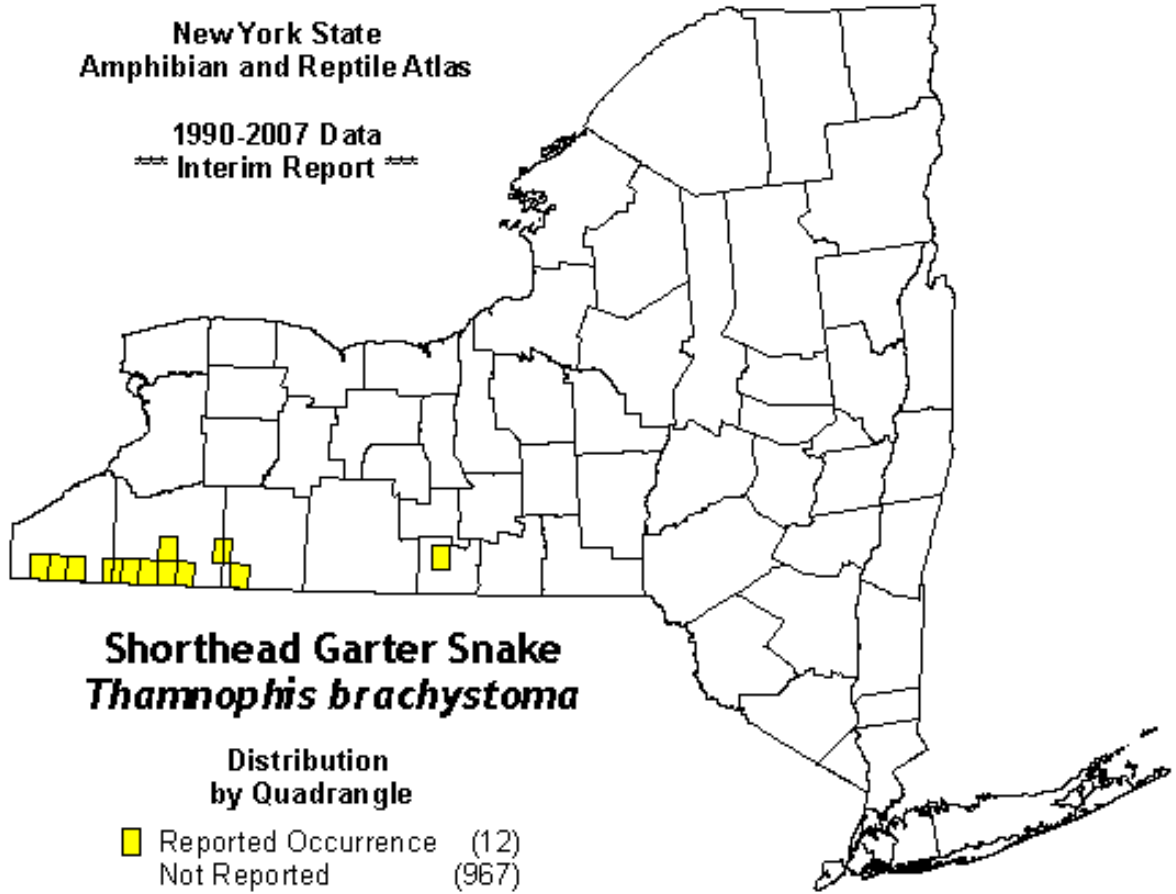
Common Garter Snake

Thamnophis sirtalis



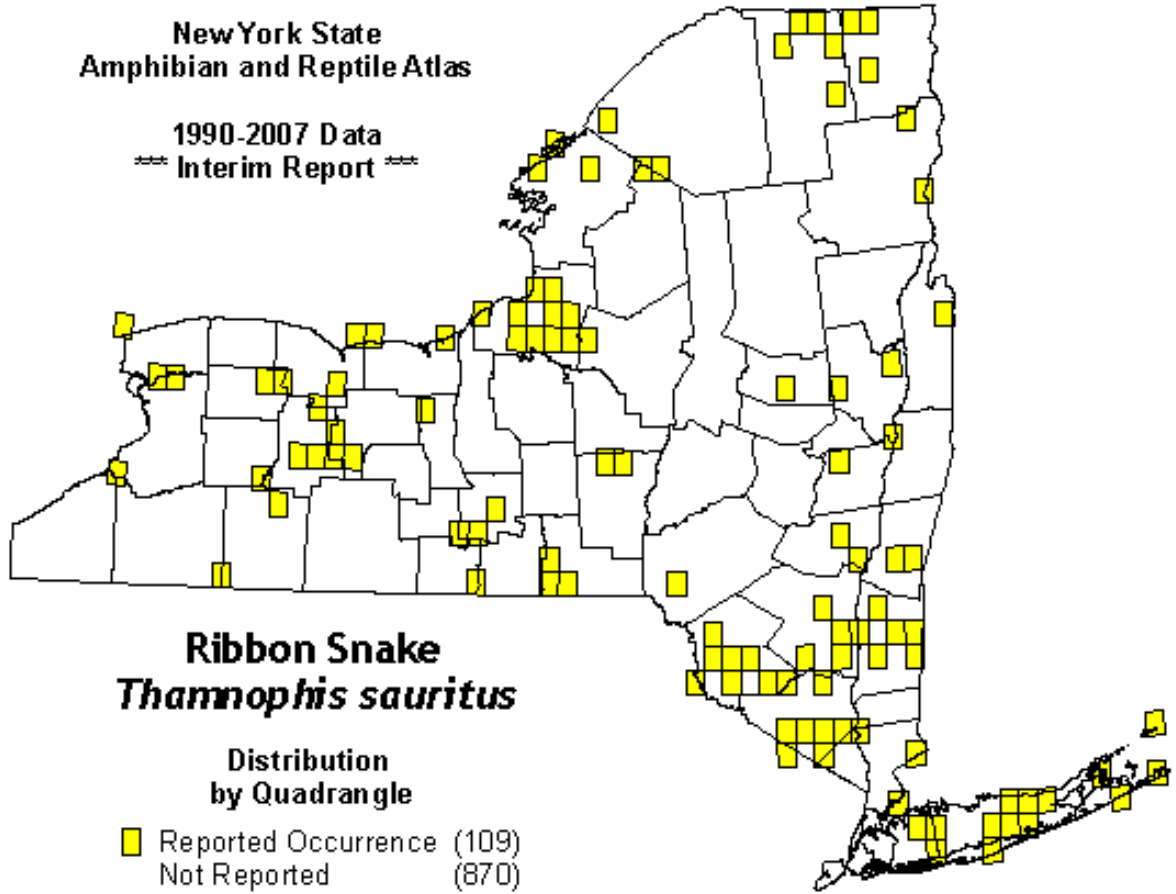
Shorthead Garter Snake

Thamnophis brachystoma



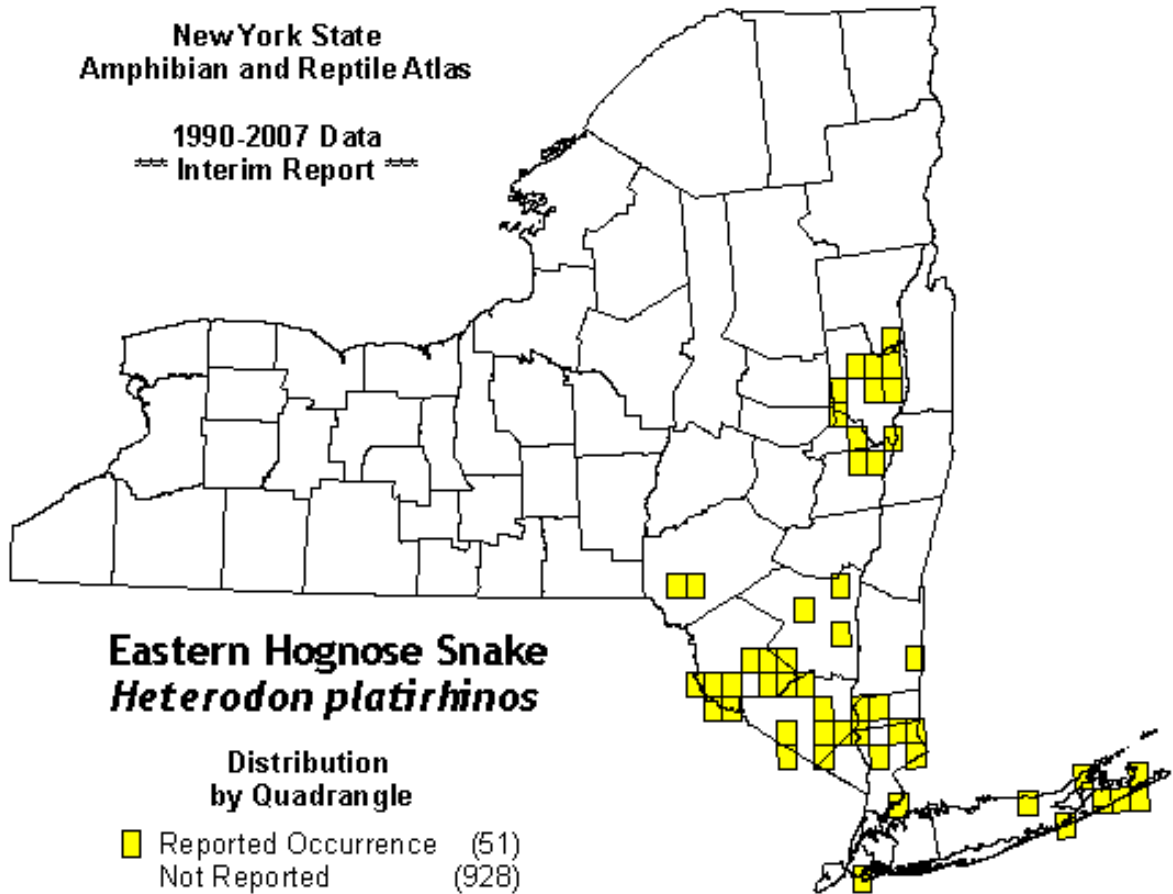
Eastern Ribbon Snake

Thamnophis sauritus



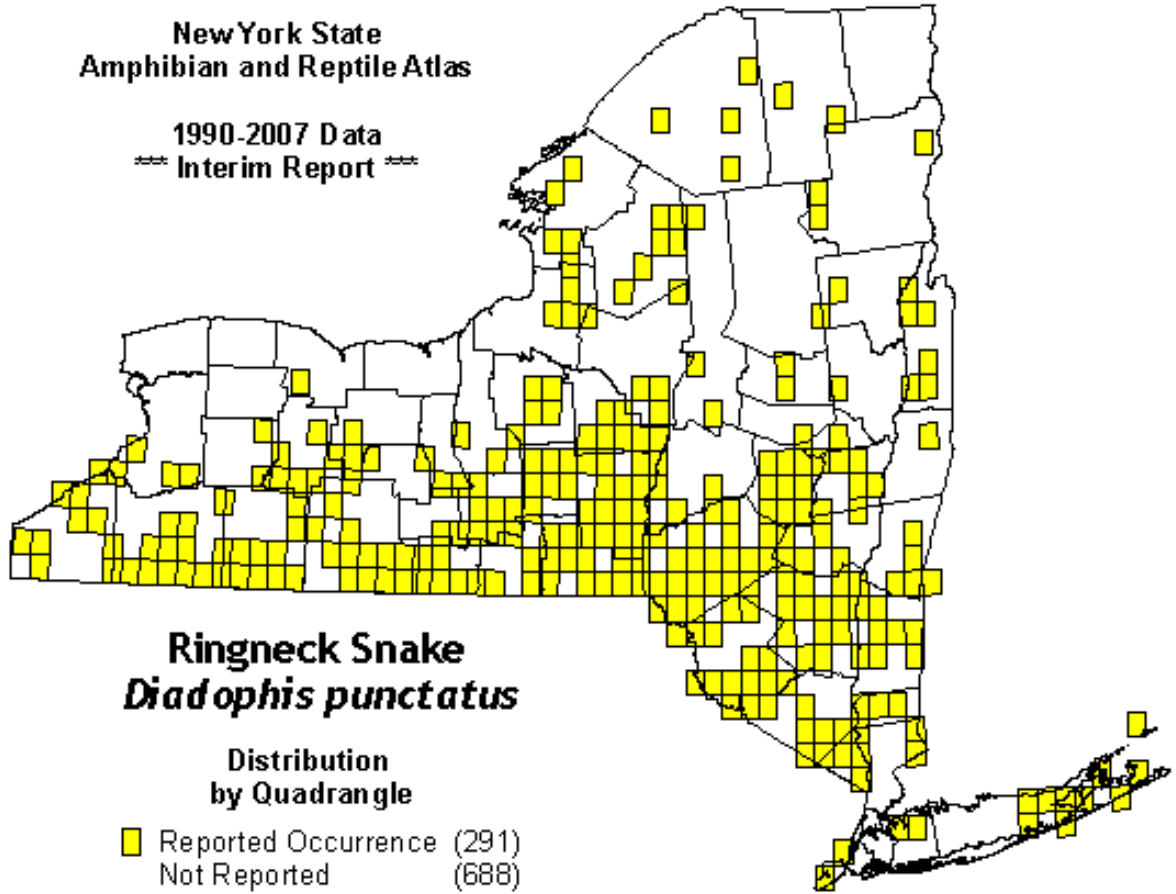
Eastern Hognose Snake

Heterodon platirhinos



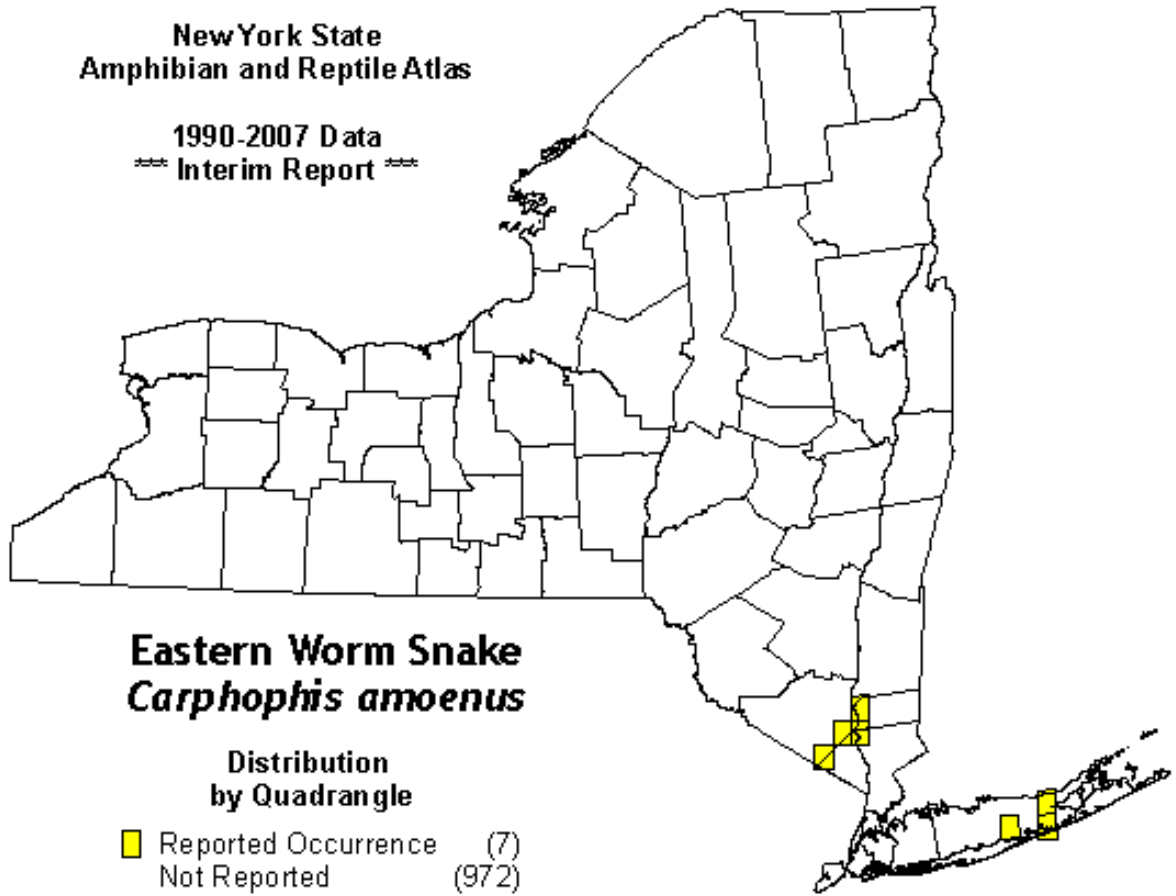
Northern Ringneck Snake

Diadophis punctatus edwardsii



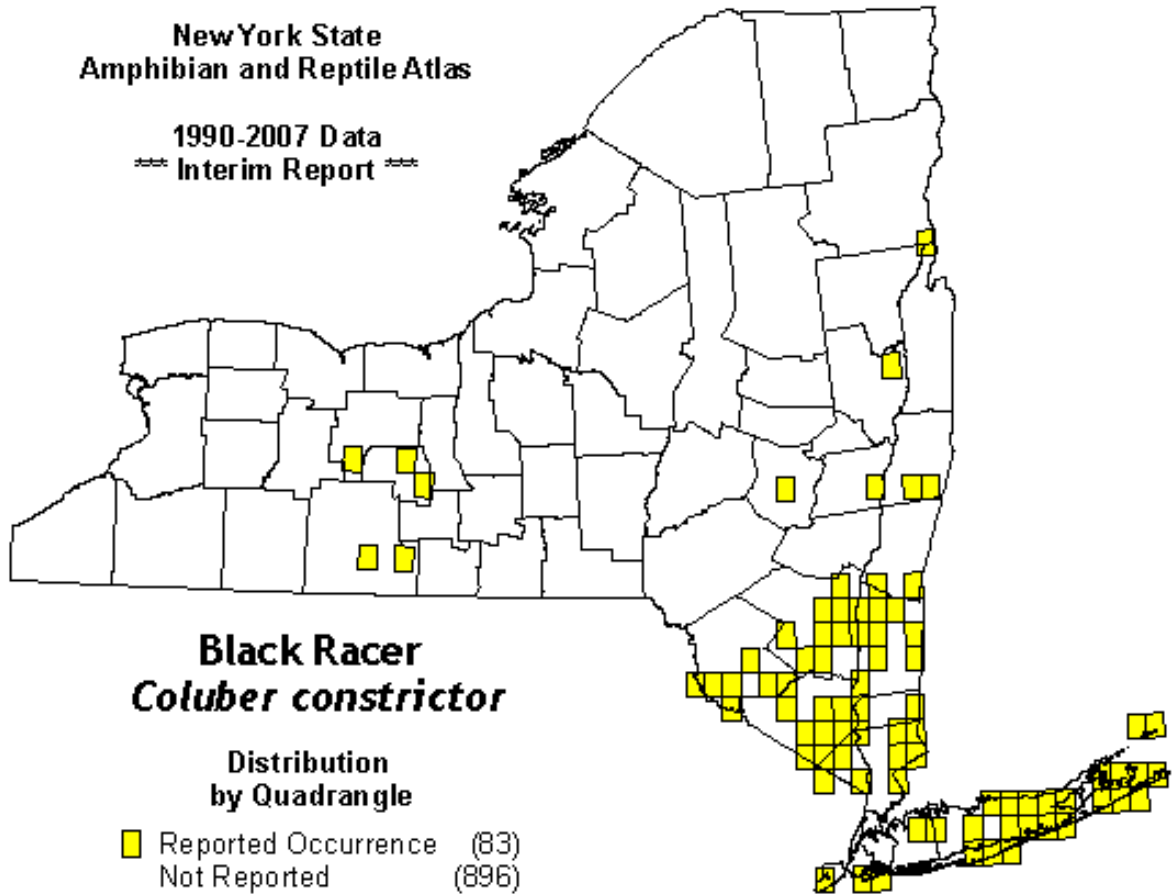
Eastern Worm Snake

Carphophis a. amoenus



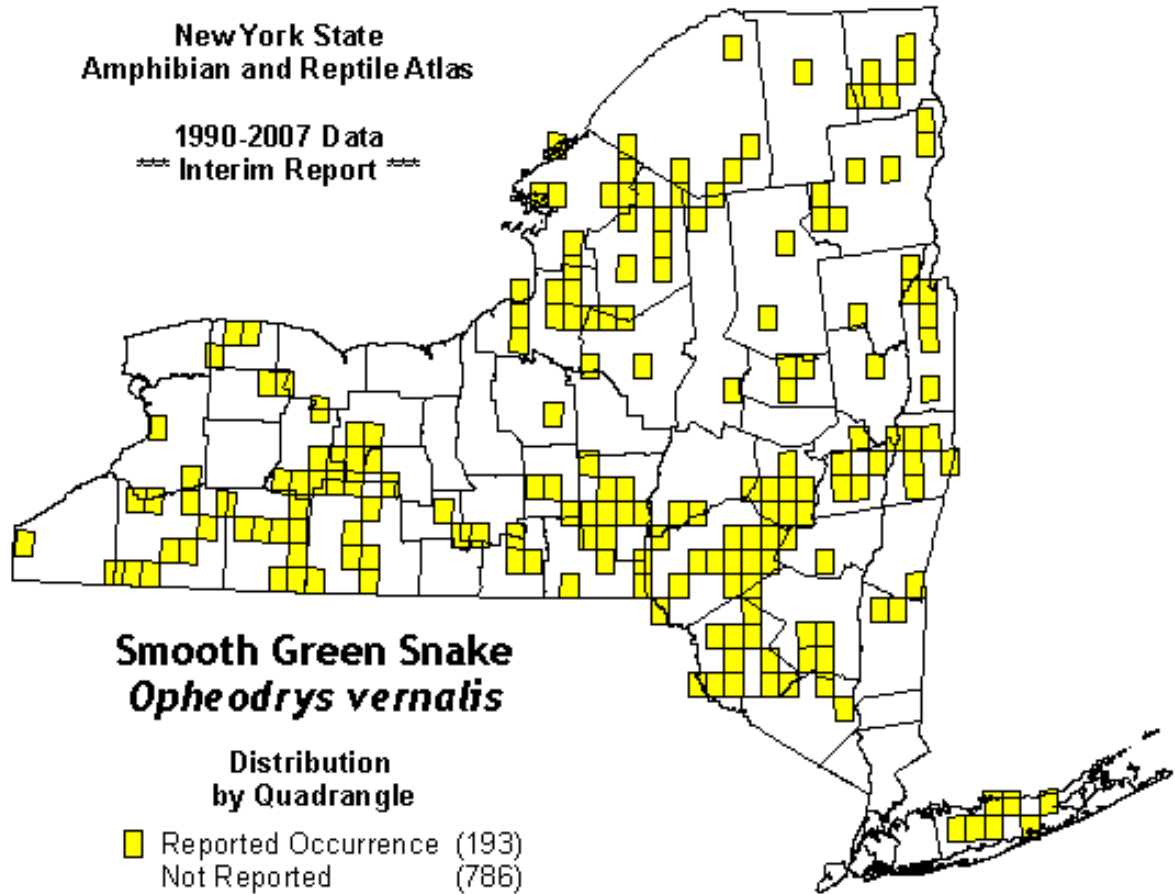
Northern Black Racer

Coluber c. constrictor



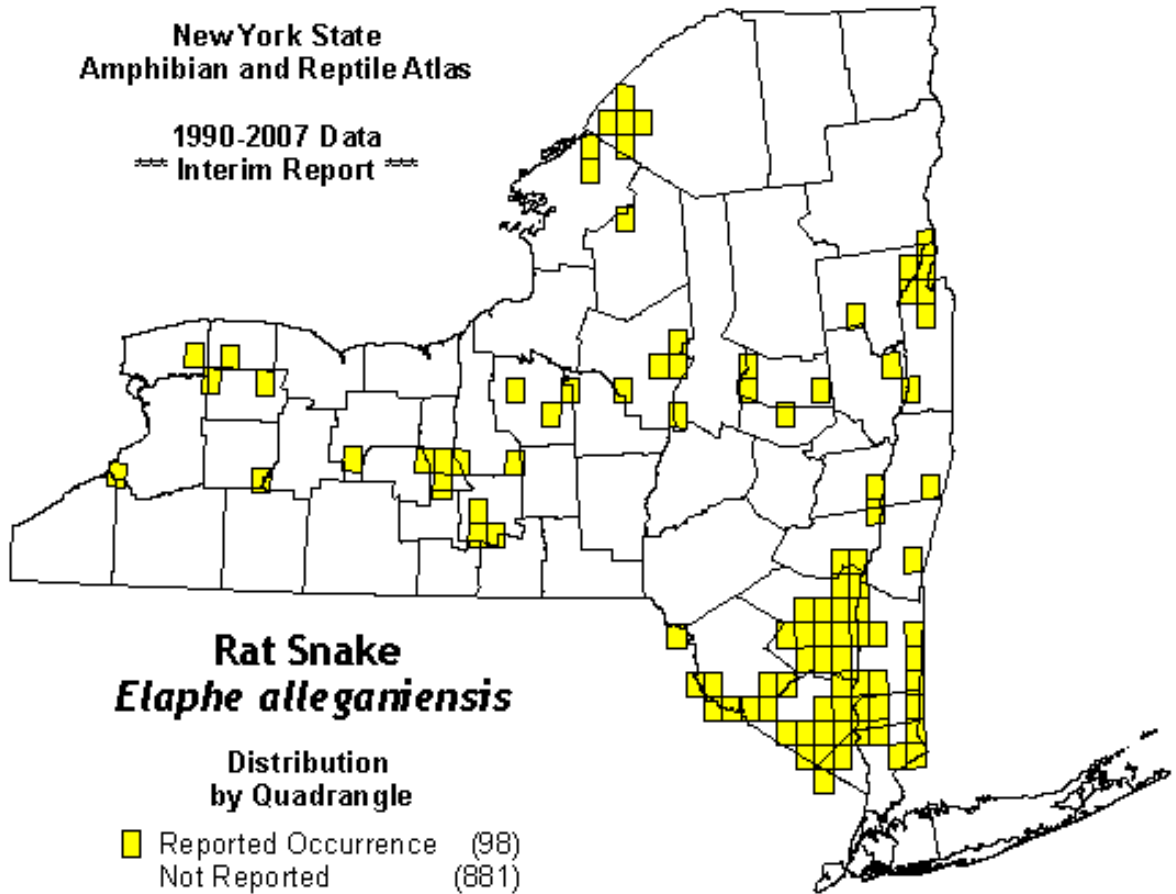
Smooth Green Snake

Liochlorophis vernalis



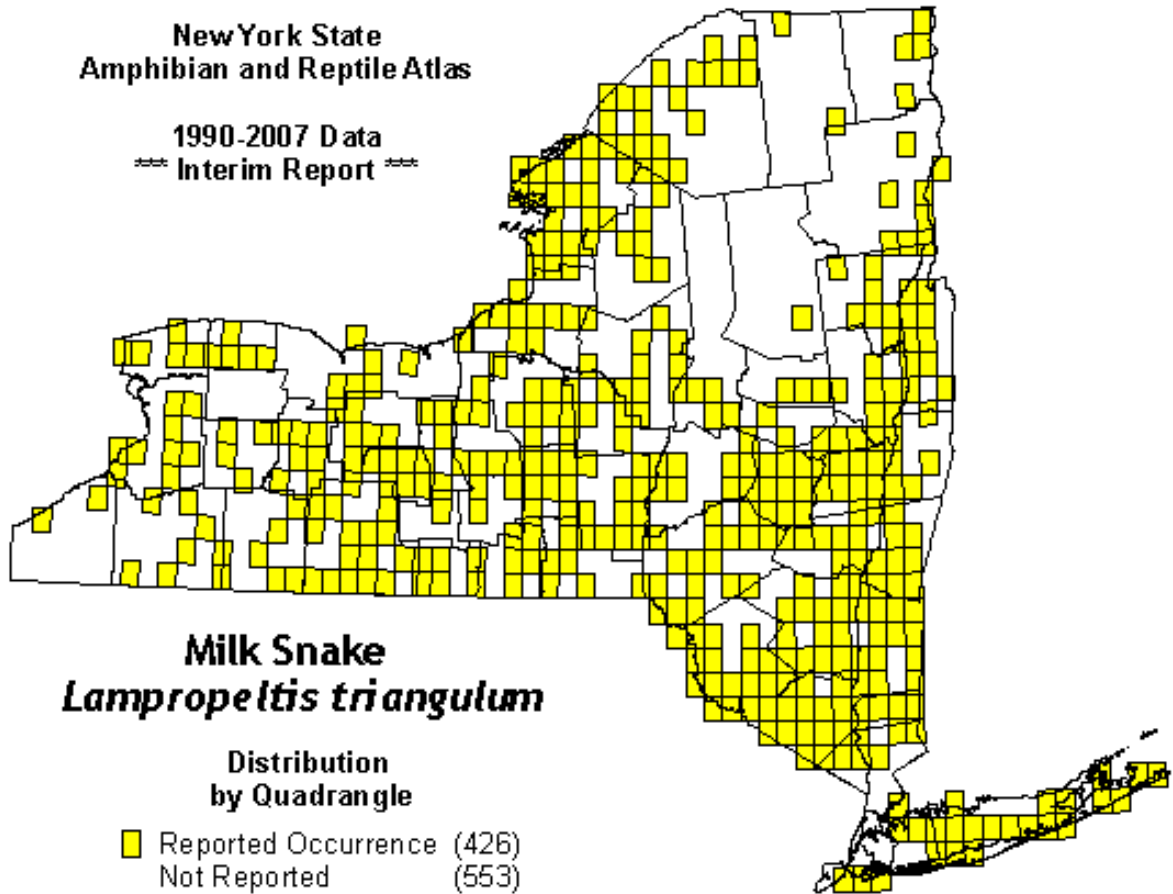
Black Rat Snake

Elaphe o. obsoleta



Eastern Milk Snake

Lampropeltis t. triangulum

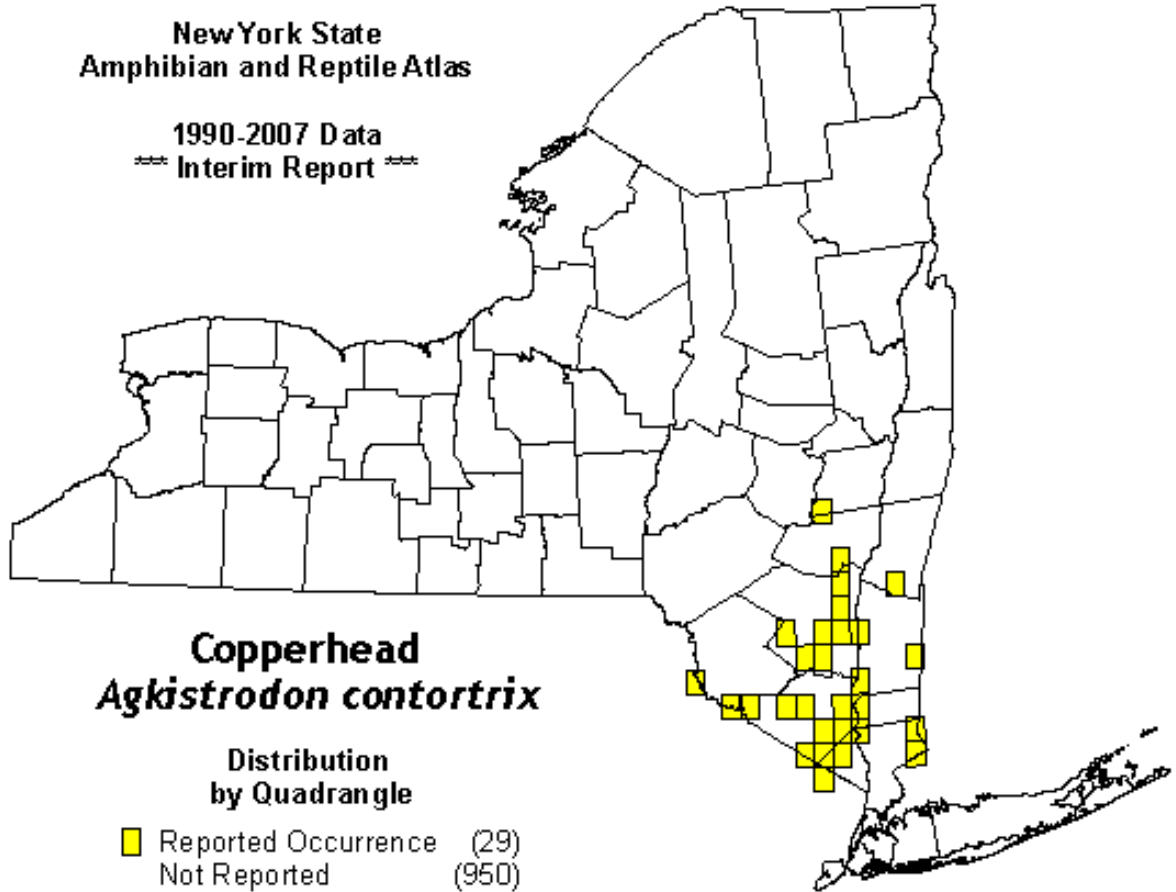


Northern Copperhead

Agkistrodon contortrix mokasen

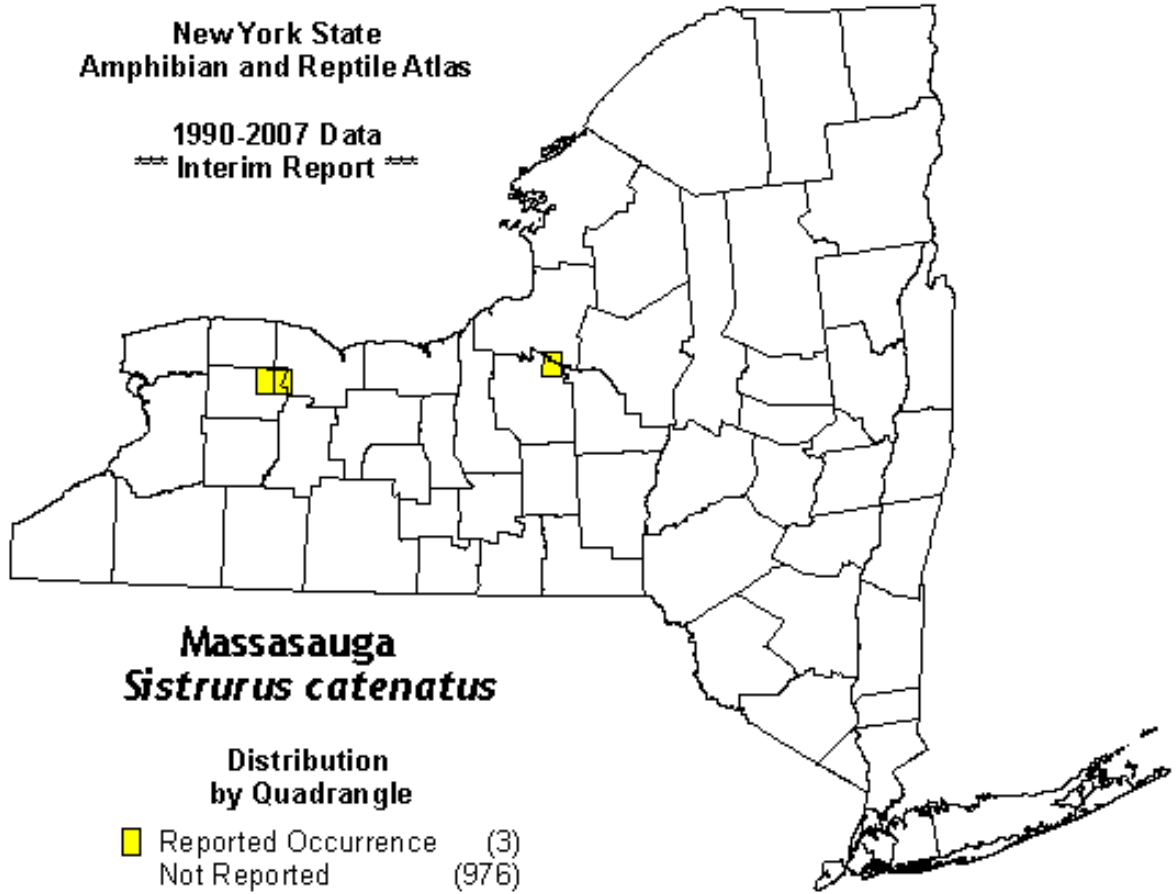
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Eastern Massasauga

Sistrurus c. catenatus



Timber Rattlesnake

Crotalus horridus

