

Rare Animals of Louisiana



Rainbow Snake

Farancia erythrogramma

Rarity Rank: S2/G5

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure



Identification:

- An iridescent, glossy snake with red and black stripes on its dorsal surface
- Ventral side is mostly yellow with a central reddish stripe and bordered by round black dots
- Black spots are also on chin and neck
- Scales smooth, anal scale divided
- Adults can be about 3 to 5.5 ft (1 to 1.6 m) in total length

Habitat:

Usually found in or near water, especially cool, clear streams with sand or gravel bottoms

Food habits:

Feeds on eels, frogs, and salamanders

Range:

- Found throughout the Atlantic and Gulf coastal plains from Maryland to central Florida, west to eastern Louisiana
- In Louisiana, restricted to the Florida Parishes

Reproduction:

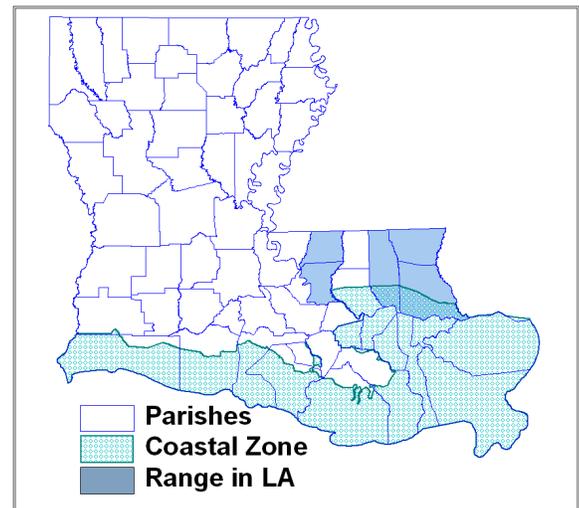
- Between 22 to 52 eggs per “nest” (FL report)
- Nests are subsurface, in sandy soils
- Laying is in early or mid July and hatching is in early September
- To get to the surface, the hatchlings must burrow through the sandy soil

Threats:

- Deaths caused by vehicular traffic
- Habitat degradation and alteration from practices such as wetland drainage and human development

Beneficial Management Practices:

Species and habitat protection through state parks or refuges



Range based on occurrences in Natural Heritage database

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LA River Basins:

Pearl, Pontchartrain

References:

Dundee, Harold A., and Douglas A. Rossman. The Amphibians and Reptiles of Louisiana. Louisville: Louisiana State UP, 1996. 234-235.

NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2006. Version 6.1 . Arlington, Virginia, USA: NatureServe. Available: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: June. 19, 2007).