

## Eastern Hog-nosed Snake



Photo: John Mitchell /© ROM

**Features:** The Eastern Hog-nosed snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*) is sometimes mistaken for a cobra because when it is threatened it rears back and flattens its neck out. It may strike out if harassed but rarely bites, and it is non-venomous. It gets its common name from long scales on its nose which give it an upturned snout. Old individuals can be one metre long and their bodies are thick.

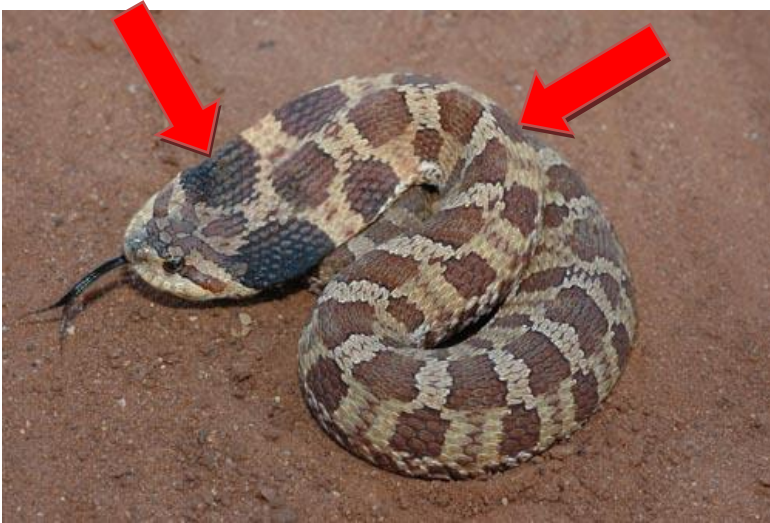
**Status:** Threatened

**Protection:** Under Ontario's *Endangered Species Act 2007*, it is illegal to harass, capture, buy, sell, possess, or kill a Blanding's Turtle. This species is also protected under Ontario's *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*. Habitat is protected under provisions in the Provincial Policy Statement.

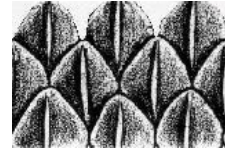


Sources: Schueler (1996) & MacCulloch (2002)

## Eastern Hog-nosed Snake Identification

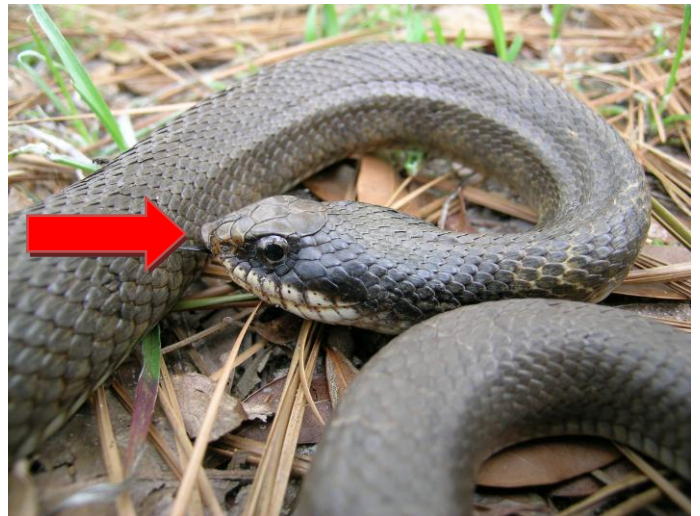


- Light background with dark blotches down the back with smaller dark blotches along the side. Large dark patch on each side of the head behind the eye. Blotches on back may be indistinct but head patches are always present.



- Scales are 'keeled'

- Distinguishing feature is upturned tip of snout, Which gives the snake its name.



- Belly is mottled with dark patches on a white background.
- Defensive behavior includes spreading neck creating a 'cobra like' appearance (top, left) in attempt to frighten intruder. If that does not work they will roll over and 'play dead' (left photo).



- Hog-nose snake eggs with young emerging (end of August to beginning of September).

