

REPORT A SIGHTING

Photo required with sighting submission.

To report a possible rattlesnake sighting, visit HerpMapper.org, which is the optimal way. In lieu of submitting on HerpMapper, fill out the form below and email to: rattlesnake@ncwildlife.org
Or mail to: Jeff Hall
405 Lancelot Drive
Greenville, N.C. 27858

Name of observer(s)

Name of species observed (and condition)

Date, time and county of observation

Specific location (e.g., Clemmends Rd. approx. 2.5 miles east of intersection with Jordan Rd.); GPS coordinates required (decimal degrees)

Additional Comments:



RATTLESNAKES OF NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina is home to three rattlesnake species: the Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake, Timber Rattlesnake and Pigmy Rattlesnake. These, along with the Cottonmouth and Copperhead, are pit vipers. Pit vipers get their name from the presence of a heat-sensing “pit” organ located between the eye and the nostril on each side of the head.

While extremely important ecologically, pit vipers have developed a negative reputation, based largely on misunderstanding. This reputation, combined with habitat loss, has greatly diminished their populations across NC.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

All three rattlesnake species are protected under the N.C. Endangered Species Act — the Eastern Diamondback as Endangered and the Timber and Pigmy Rattlesnakes as species of Special Concern — due to population declines. In order to understand these declines better, N.C. Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NCPARC) is asking for your help.

NCPARC is asking citizens to avoid killing rattlesnakes and other snakes — and to report sightings and send biologists photos of rattlesnakes they see.

If you have access to any information, photos or localities pertaining to rattlesnakes from North Carolina, please share these on HerpMapper (www.HerpMapper.org). Or e-mail Jeff Hall at jeff.hall@ncwildlife.org.

Include a photo (required), detailed site information (GPS coordinates, required), as well as date and time.

ABOUT NCPARC



NCPARC is North Carolina’s chapter of the world-wide organization Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation. NCPARC members are interested in the conservation of amphibians and reptiles and their habitats. We welcome anyone with an interest in these animals, conservation or nature to join NCPARC and help us conserve amphibian and reptile populations.
Membership is FREE.

For information contact NCPARC coordinator Jeff Hall: jeff.hall@ncwildlife.org
Phone: 252-917-1683

For information on NCPARC or to download free information on reptiles and amphibians, visit: www.ncparc.org.



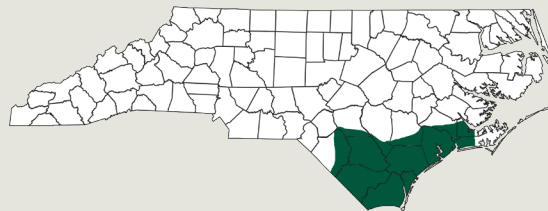


Jeff Hall

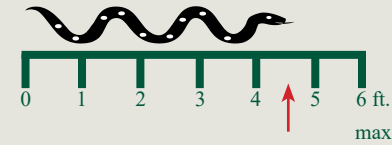
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus*)

Identifying characteristics:

- Up to 6 feet; very heavy-bodied.
- Average 28 dark, diamond-shaped markings with pale borders.
- Triangular-shaped head with dark bands masking eyes.
- 2 light lines running along sides of head.
- Rattle on end of tail.



The Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake, the world's largest rattlesnake species, is found in North Carolina in the southeastern Coastal Plain, primarily in long-leaf pine flatwoods and sandhill habitats.



Natural history:

- Eats mostly rodents and rabbits.
- Active from late March – October.
- Overwinters in stump cavities, mammal burrows.
- Bears 7 to 21 young in fall.
- Venom highly toxic; deaths from bites are rare, but known.

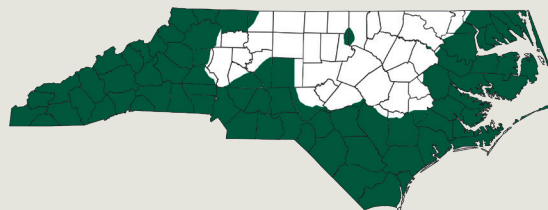


Zach Orr

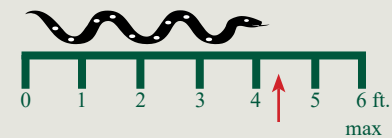
Timber “Canebrake” Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*)

Identifying characteristics:

- Up to 5 ½ feet; large, heavy-bodied.
- Dark crossbands on a lighter background.
- Tail usually black.
- In Mountains, usually yellow, dark gray or black.
- In Piedmont and Coastal Plain, light brown, gray, tan or pinkish background.
- Rattle on end of tail.



The Timber Rattlesnake, also known as the “canebrake,” is most common in the Mountains and Coastal Plain in North Carolina, found primarily in forested areas.



Natural history:

- Eats mice, squirrels, sometimes birds.
- Reluctant to rattle or bite.
- Often hibernates communally.
- Bears 1 to 20 young in late summer.
- Venom highly toxic; deaths from bites are rare, but known.

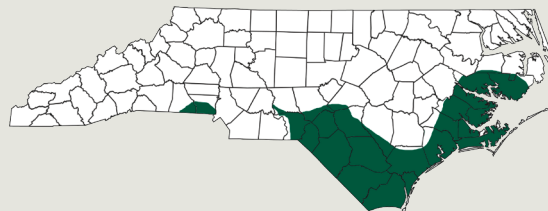


Jeff Hall

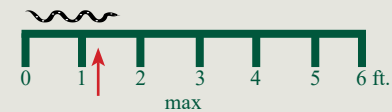
Carolina Pigmy Rattlesnake (*Sistrurus miliarius miliarius*)

Identifying characteristics:

- Small; average size 15-21 inches.
- Dull gray with a row of dark spots down center of the back and a smaller row of spots along sides.
 - Snakes from outer Coastal Plain counties often have a red or pinkish background color.
- Small rattle; often sounds like an insect buzz.



The Pigmy Rattlesnake is the smallest rattlesnake in North Carolina, found mostly in pine flatwoods and scrub oak habitats in southeastern Coastal Plain, Sandhills, and a few portions of the southern Piedmont.



Natural history:

- Eats lizards, small mammals, frogs, small snakes, large arthropods.
- Active day and night but rarely seen due to camouflage.
- Overwinters in logs, stumps, mammal burrows.
- Bears 3 to 9 young in late summer.