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A GUIDE TO FIELD IDENTIFICATION

# REPTILES OF NORTH AMERICA



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## OF NORTH AMERICA

*by*  
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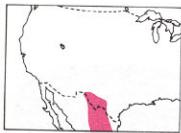
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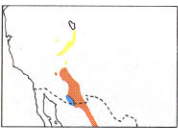
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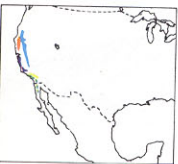
**GRAY-BANDED KINGSSNAKE** (*Lampropeltis mexicana*).

Has 23–27 rows of scales at midbody, 19 or more at rear (17 in most other kingsnakes); 208–229 ventrals (in U.S.); 55–67 caudals. Markings vary from narrow black rings with no red to broad blotches, more red than black. Belly is mostly white, black-blotched, or mostly black. One subspecies in U.S.: *L. m. alterna*.



**SONORAN MOUNTAIN KINGSSNAKE** (*Lampropeltis*

*pyromelana*). Has 23–25 rows of scales, 216–235 ventrals, 61–79 caudals. Three subspecies in N.A.: (1) *L. p. pyromelana*—10 lower labials, usually 43–61 white rings, fewer than half complete across belly; (2) *L. p. woodini*—like (1) but usually 37–42 rings; (3) *L. p. infralabialis*—9 lower labials, 42–57 white belly rings, half or more complete.



**CALIFORNIA MOUNTAIN KINGSSNAKE** (*Lampropeltis*

*zonata*). Has 21–25 (usually 23) rows of scales at midbody, 194–227 ventrals, 46–62 caudals. Five U.S. subspecies: (1) *L. z. zonata*—1st white ring not on rear upper labial, 40% or fewer triads united at midline; (2) *L. z. multicincta*—like (1) but more than 40% of triads united; (3) *L. z. parvuirbra*—1st white ring on rear upper labial, 37 or more triads; (4) *L. z. pulchra*—like (3) but 36 or fewer triads; (5) *L. z. multifasciata*—snout red-flecked (black in others).

**GLOSSY SNAKES**—genus *Arizona*

**GLOSSY SNAKE** (*Arizona elegans*).

Has 25–31 rows of scales at midbody, 185–241 ventrals, 39–63 caudals. Rostral is somewhat enlarged; head scales are normal. Usually has 1 preocular; has 2 postoculars, 8 upper labials, 2 anterior temporals. Ten subspecies, 7 in U.S.: (1) *A. e. elegans*—usually 29–31 rows of scales, 51 or more blotches, 211 or fewer ventrals in males, 220 or fewer in females; (2) *A. e. arenicola*—29–31 rows of scales, 50 or fewer blotches, 212 or more ventrals in males, 221 or more in females; (3) *A. e. philipi*—usually 27 rows of scales (also in following 4 subspecies), tail more than 14.5% of total length in males, 13.5% in females (also in preceding 2); (4) *A. e. occidentalis*—tail shorter (also in following 3 subspecies), dark spots on lower lips and edges of ventrals (not so in next 3); (5) *A. e. noctivaga*—length of blotches at midline equals or exceeds length of interspaces (not in next 2); (6) *A. e. eburnata*—blotches 7 scales wide, 1 preocular; (7) *A. e. candida*—blotches 9 scales wide, usually 2 preoculars.



GRAY-BANDED KINGSSNAKE  
47½ in. (121 cm) total

color variations



SONORAN MOUNTAIN KINGSSNAKE  
42 in. (107 cm) total



CALIFORNIA MOUNTAIN KINGSSNAKE  
40 in. (102 cm) total



GLOSSY SNAKE  
56 in. (142 cm) total