venter, and some may have much dark banding. Scales smooth, in 19 or 21 rows at midbody. Caudals mostly divided (arranged in 2 rows). Anal single.

In our area much of range is short-grass prairie. Other habitats include sagebrush covered grasslands, piñon-juniper and broadleaf woodland, canyons grown to oak and maple, and upland pine forests. Frequent canyons, river bottoms, rocky hillsides, sand dunes, farmland, and suburban areas. Secretive—found inside rotten logs and stumps and under rocks, logs, bark, and boards. Occasionally encountered in the open. Often nocturnal, especially in warm weather. Clutch of 2–24 eggs (4–6 more common in our area), laid May–July in U.S. Eats snakes, lizards, reptile eggs, small mammals, birds and their eggs, and occasionally insects and earthworms. Often found in barnyards where they hunt mice, therefore erroneously accused of milking cows, hence the common name. **Similar Species:** See (1) California Mountain (p. 366) and (2) Sonoran Mountain Kingsnakes (p. 367). (3) Long-nosed Snake (p. 375) has single caudals. (4) Sonoran Coral Snake (p. 405) has red bands bordered with white or pale yellow instead of black. **Range:** One of the most widely distributed of all snake species, ranging from se. Canada to Ecuador, Atlantic Coast to n. Mont. and cen. Utah. Old records for Ft. Benton, Chouteau Co., Mont., and Ft. (Camp) Apache, Navajo Co., Ariz. In Ariz., known from drainage of Little Colorado R. at Wupatki Nat'l Monument, from near Holbrook, Navajo Co. and near St. Johns, Apache Co.; reported from Petrified Forest Nat'l Park. A far northern locality in the West is near Sun Prairie, Phillips Co., Mont. Near sea level to around 9,000 ft. (2,740 m).

**Remarks:** Population in Stansbury Mts., Tooele Co., Utah, highly variable in color. Many have dorsal markings similar to those of Sonoran Mountain Kingsnake. Subspecies relationships of this snake are uncertain.

**Gray-Banded Kingsnake**

*Lampropeltis alternna*

**Identification:** 20–57 in. (51–145 cm). Ground color above is light to dark gray (very dark in dark-color phase). Widely spaced crossbands of black on gray background often narrowly to widely split (sometimes wider than intervening gray areas) with orange or reddish. Crossbands edged with whitish. Below gray with black blotches and spots. The narrow-banded, light-gray phase in our area and elsewhere bears striking resemblance to Rock Rattlesnake and may perhaps derive some protection thereby from snake-eating predators. Rather broad head may reinforce the resemblance. Eyes slightly protuberant. Scales smooth and glossy. Anal single.
Inhabitant of arid and semiarid regions from desert flats into mountains. Appears to be primarily a rock-crevice snake. Often found in rocky habitats of fissured canyon outcrops, escarpments, and road cuts. Vegetation characteristic of Chihuahuan Desert, such as cactus, mesquite, ocotillo, and creosote bush. Nocturnal and secretive. Clutch of 5–9 eggs laid June–July. Eats lizards and rodents (including nestlings); single record of a Canyon Treefrog. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** (1) Rock Rattlesnake has rattle and keeled scales. (2) Lyre Snake has vertical pupils. **RANGE:** In our area, at present, verified for only two localities: Walnut Canyon near Whites City, Carlsbad Caverns Nat’l Park, and near El Paso Gap, both in Eddy Co., N.M., thence south to n. Durango and extreme w. Nuevo León, Mex. Trans-Pecos region east to Edwards Co., Tex.

**LONG-NOSED SNAKE Rhinocelius lecontei**  
**PL. 44, MAP 155**

**IDENTIFICATION:** 20–60 in. (51–152 cm). Typically slim and speckled, with black saddles flecked with whitish on sides. Spaces between saddles cream, yellow, pink, or red, except for whitish border next to saddles. Spaces between saddles usually marked with dark flecks on sides. Belly whitish or yellow, with a few dark spots toward sides. Snout long and pointed, and head only slightly wider than neck. Lower jaw countersunk (inset). Most scales under tail in a single row. Scales smooth, in 23 rows. Anal single. **Young:** Speckling on sides faint or absent.

Inhabits deserts, prairies, shrubland, and tropical habitats (in Mex.) In the Southwest it is crepuscular and nocturnal, likely to be found on roadways at night. In the Northwest, at least, it is cold-tolerant. When alarmed may vibrate tail, writhe hind part of body, and evert vent lining, releasing blood and feces. A good burrower. One, perhaps 2, clutches of 4–11 eggs, laid June–Aug. Eats lizards and their eggs, small snakes, small mammals, and occasionally birds and insects. Lizards, especially Whiptails (Cnemidophorus), appear to be favored. Large prey is killed by constriction. **SIMILAR SPECIES:** (1) Differs from Kingsnakes (pp. 364–370) in having most caudal scales in a single rather than double row. (2) See also Thornscurb Hook-nosed Snake (p. 396). **RANGE:** Sw. Idaho (Snake R. Valley area) and se. Colo. to cen. Baja Calif. (Misión San Borja), San Luis Potosí and s. Tamaulipas; cen. Tex. to cen. and s. coastal Calif. Ranges north in Calif. to Sutter Buttes in Sacramento Valley. Old record for Mt. Sanhedrin, Mendocino Co., Calif. Populations apparently isolated in Snake R. Valley, Idaho, and Dragerton area, Carbon Co., Utah. On Cerralvo I., Gulf of Calif. Below sea level (in desert sinks) to around 6,233 ft. (1,900 m). **SUBSPECIES:** TEXAS LONG-NOSED SNAKE, *R. l. tessellatus*. Snout sharp; rostral raised above nearby scales, giving snout an upward tilt. **WESTERN**
CORAL AND LONG-NOSED SNAKES

Smooth scales.

SONORAN CORAL SNAKE  *Micruroides euryxanthus*  P. 405, MAP 181
Venomous. Red bands bordered by yellow or white (not by black, as in Kingsnakes). (Santa Cruz Co., Ariz.) (11–24½ in. TL)

LONG-NOSED SNAKE  *Rhinocheilus lecontei*  P. 370, MAP 155
White spots on sides in black bands. (San Joaquin Co., Calif.) (20–60 in. TL)

KINGSNAKES (*Lampropeltis*)

Smooth scales; usually a banded pattern.

SONORAN MOUNTAIN KINGSNAKE  *L. pyromelana*  P. 367, MAP 154
Red bands bordered by black; white rings usually not widened below. Snout whitish or flecked with white. (Ariz.) (18–42 in. TL)

CALIFORNIA MOUNTAIN KINGSNAKE  *L. zonata*  P. 366, MAP 151
Red bands and white rings as in Sonoran Mountain Kingsnake. Snout usually black, with or without red markings. (Santa Cruz Co., Calif.) (20–48½ in. TL)

MILK SNAKE  *L. triangulum*  P. 368, MAP 152
White bands widen below. (14–54 in. TL)

COMMON KINGSNAKE  *L. getula*  P. 364, MAP 153
Broad dark and light banding, or flecked with white or cream on a dark background (Fig. 20). (Contra Costa Co., Calif.) (30–85 in. TL)

GRAY-BANDED KINGSNAKE  *L. alterna*  P. 369, MAP 151
Widely spaced crossbands of black on a gray background are often narrowly to widely split with orange or reddish. (Eddy Co., N.M.) (20–57 in. TL)

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Fig. 20. Pattern of spotted subspecies of Common Kingsnake