

Eastern Ribbonsnake

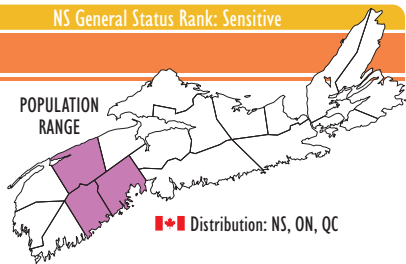
Thamnophis sauritus

NS General Status Rank: Sensitive



© JEFFIE MCNEIL

POPULATION RANGE


 Distribution: NS, ON, QC
STATUSThreatened Threatened **SIZE:** Up to 75 cm total length.

DESCRIPTION: Slender with three bright yellow stripes that run along the length of their black body, one on each side and one along the back. They have a caramel-brown color on the lower sides between the side stripes and the cream coloured ventral (belly) scales and a slender head with a small vertical white line in front of the eye.

NOTES: Like all snakes in Nova Scotia, ribbonsnakes are harmless and are not poisonous.



© JEFFIE MCNEIL

Slender with three yellow stripes



© JEFFIE MCNEIL



© JEFFIE MCNEIL

Garter snake



Eastern Ribbonsnake survey

© JEFFIE MCNEIL

Habitat:

Vegetated freshwater wetlands, lake shorelines and shallow coves; may overwinter in adjacent terrestrial habitats.

Similar Species: There are five species of snakes in Nova Scotia. Only the Garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*) is similar to the ribbonsnake. The Garter snake is usually larger and thicker bodied. Garter snakes have many different colorations but are most often lighter with a more checkered pattern. Garter snakes lack the white line in front of the eye. Ribbonsnakes are typically darker and more vividly striped.

Interesting Point: Ribbonsnakes are ovoviparous, meaning they give birth to live young.

There are over 40 species at risk in Nova Scotia. Some share habitats with ACPF and face many of the same threats including habitat loss and fragmentation. The ACPF Recovery Team works closely with recovery teams for other species to help coordinate efforts where species distributions overlap. For information on other species at risk in Nova Scotia and how you can help, check out the Species at Risk field guide (page 90). Two species at risk, Blanding's turtle and Eastern Ribbonsnake, are included in this guide because they occur in similar wetland and lakeshore habitats as ACPF and have limited ranges in southwest NS. Please report any sightings to 1-866-727-3447; you may help to identify a new population of these species.