

Southern Watersnake: *Nerodia fasciata*



Also called Broad-Banded Watersnake or Banded Watersnake, this species of non-venomous snake is found in the central and southeastern United States. The Southern Watersnake grows up to 4 ft. and is typically gray, green-gray or brown in color with dark cross-banding. Many specimens are so dark in color their patterning is barely discernible. They have a flat head and are fairly heavy bodied. Their appearance leads them to be frequently mistaken for other snakes with which they share a habitat, including the less common Cottonmouth. The Southern Watersnake feeds primarily on fish and amphibians.

Diamond-backed Watersnake: *Nerodia rhombifer*

Diamond-backed Watersnake is a species of non-venomous watersnake found throughout much of the central United States and northern Mexico. They can grow to a length of 4.9 ft. and in southern states have reached 8.2 ft. or more in length. They are frequently found basking on branches over water, and when approached, they will quickly drop into the water and swim away. If cornered, they will often hiss and flatten their head or body to appear larger. They can be mistaken for the venomous Cottonmouth (*Agkistrodon piscivorus*) and their diamond-shaped pattern also causes these snakes to be mistaken for rattlesnakes.

