



Illinois ENDANGERED & THREATENED SPECIES

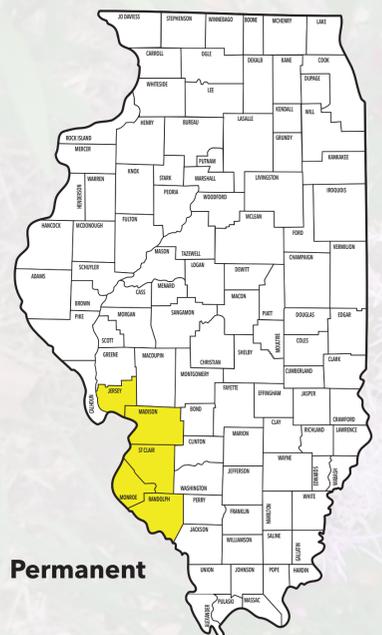


Great Plains ratsnake *Pantherophis emoryi* [state endangered]

The Great Plains ratsnake lives in rock bluffs near waterways, hill prairies, hillsides and brushy areas. This reptile is secretive, hiding under rocks, logs, boards, in rock crevices and in small mammal burrows in the day. Active at night in warm weather, it climbs readily. It will vibrate its tail when disturbed. This snake kills its prey by constriction. It eats birds and small mammals.

Reasons for Concern

- habitat destruction
- excessive collecting of snakes
- heavy traffic



Permanent