

COPPERHEAD

Agkistrodon contortrix



Order: Squamata Family: Viperidae

Range: Eastern North America
as far west as west
Texas and as far
south as northern
Mexico

Habitat: rocky outcroppings of
woodland. In more
arid environments
associated with
permanent water

Size: 50-95 cm (19.7- 37.4 in)

Weight: 227-340 g(8-12 oz)

Diet: insects, small mammals,
reptiles and birds

Birth: Live. Ovoviviparous

Number of young :1-20

Caregiver :neither parent care
for young

Sexual maturity:4-6 yrs.

Breeding season: Feb- May
and Aug -Oct

Life span: 18 years

IUCN: Least Concern

Subspecies : 5

A member of the pit-viper subfamily (Crotalinae) the copperhead is one of the commonest venomous snake in the United States. The coloration of this species can be highly variable. The dorsal pattern has a gray to pink ground color with 10 to 20 darker crossbands on some individuals these bands are broken at the dorsal midline. The ventral side is usually whitish with gray to black spots. Juveniles can be distinguished by a yellow-tipped tail. A heavily built snake the copperhead has a triangular shaped copper colored head with a lorea. The loreal pit, present in all pit-vipers is a sense organ that assists the snake in hunting prey. The pit acts as an infra-red device allowing the snake to locate warm blooded prey by sense of heat. The cryptic pattern of the copperhead provides camouflage while it's sit to ambush its prey. Young copperheads usually feed on insects while adults feed on small vertebrates. 1 pit between the eye and nostril.