## COPPERHEAD

## Agkistrodon contortrix





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

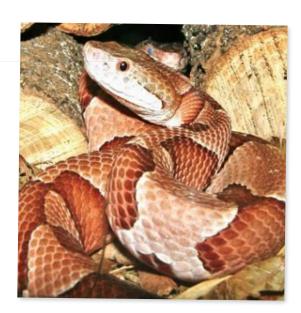
Sexual maturity:4-6 yrs.

Breeding season: Feb- May and Aug -Oct

Life span: 18 years

**IUCN: Least Concern** 

Subspecies: 5



## Order: Squamata Family: Viperidae

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. I pit between the eye and nostril.