

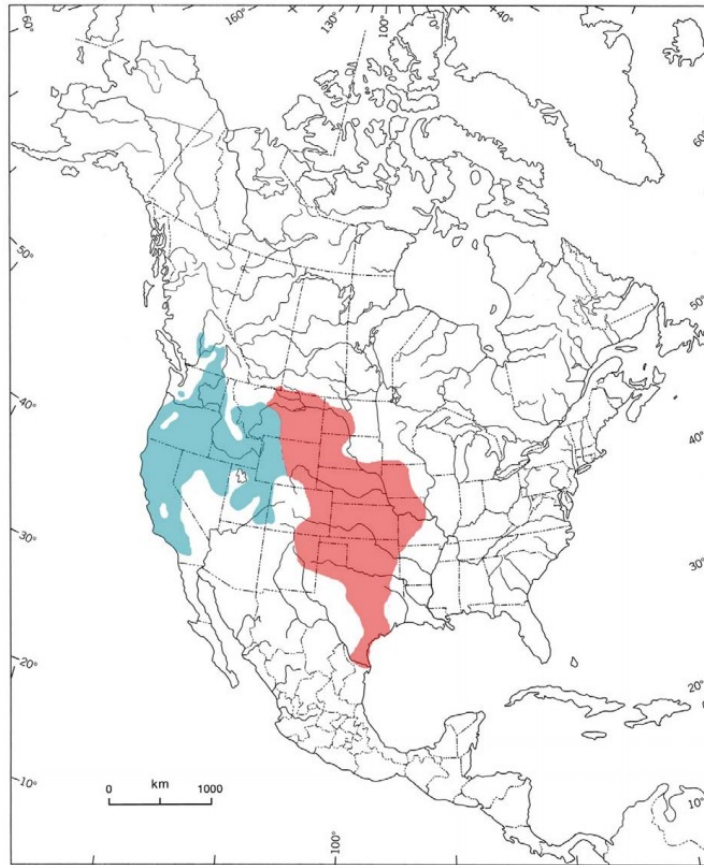


Species at Risk Profile Series: Eastern Yellow-bellied Racer



- Eastern Yellow-bellied Racers are considered threatened in Canada.
- They are the fastest snake in Canada.
- Racers are long (up to 1.75 m long), slender snakes with olive-green backs and yellow or cream undersides.
- They begin reproducing at 2-3 years, and only lay eggs once every 1-2 years.
- They lay 4-20 eggs under loose substrate or underground.
- After laying, eggs can double in mass by absorbing water from the soil.
- In winter, racers hibernate together far enough below-ground that they do not freeze.
- They eat insects (especially grasshoppers), and other small animals like birds or frogs.
- Racers prefer open habitat, and can be found in mixed-grass prairies.
- Racers live at least 7-8 years in the wild.
- Racers are excellent climbers and can often be found basking in shrubs





Yellow-bellied Racer Range Map: Red is the range of the Eastern Yellow-bellied Racer, while blue is the range of the Western.

Conservation

- Racers are limited by the availability of suitable hibernation sites.
- Racers hunting insects in hayfields are often killed by farm machinery.
- They like to bask on roads, which can result in being crushed by passing vehicles.
- Pesticides reduce the number of prey available, making hunting more difficult.

Get involved

- Read the assessment and status report for Eastern Yellow-bellied Racers [here](#).
- If you find a racer, keep a respectful distance and minimize harassment.

Photo credit: W. Yellow-bellied Racer by Joefarah retrieved from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:W._Yellow-bellied_Racer.jpg licensed under CC-BY-SA 3.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/deed.en> (front)

Range map credit: COSEWIC. 2004. COSEWIC assessment and update status report on the Eastern and Western Yellow-bellied Racers, *Coluber constrictor flaviventris* and *Coluber constrictor mormon* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. vii + 35 pp. (www.sararegistry.gc.ca/status/status_e.cfm)