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.
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.

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