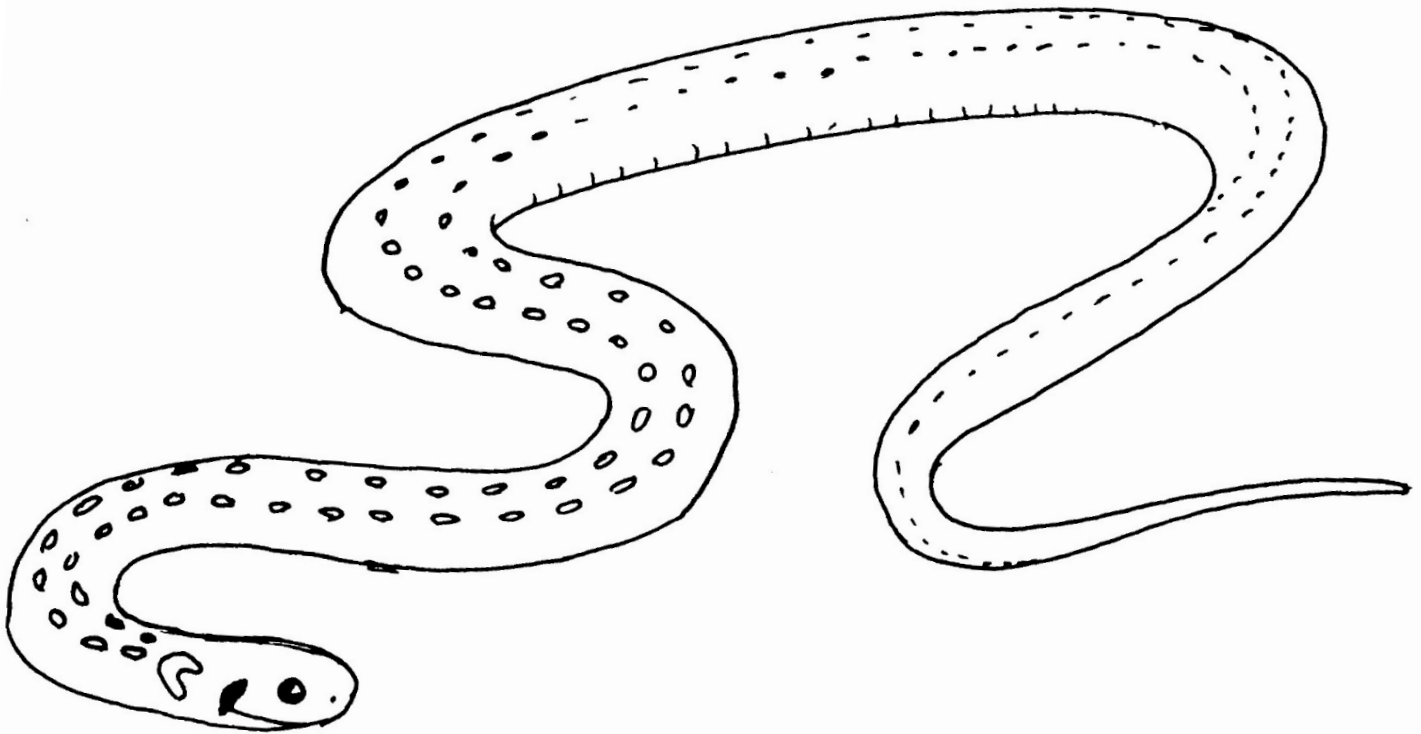




PA's Amphibian and Reptile Coloring Series

Northern Brownsnake



All About Me: Hello! I am a Northern Brownsnake. We are secretive, and we like it that way. We are one of PA's smallest snakes, reaching sizes of only nine to 13 inches long. We are mostly active during the day; however, when warm weather sets in, we become more nocturnal. We are small, but we have eyes that look too large for our heads. Our backs and sides range in color from gray, yellow-brown, brown or red-brown. We have two parallel rows of small dark spots bordering a wide but indistinct stripe that runs down the center of the full length of our backs. Our bellies can be pale yellow or brown, even pinkish, and edged with small black spots. Some of us can have a dark bar from just behind the eye downward to the upper lip. Our scales are keeled. We are found across most of PA. We are usually found near water or areas that remain damp most of the time, settling into moist upland woodland or lowland marshes. Margins of swamps or bogs are acceptable habitat and we have shown up in gardens, golf courses, parks and other urban environs. Wherever we reside, we take refuge under downed logs, flat rocks and even trash, if need be. We eat worms, slugs, and snails; which are all prey that is usually easy to find in damp places. We become meals for skunks, hawks and owls.