

Speckled Kingsnake
Lampropeltis getula



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Family: Colubridae

Sometimes referred to as the Common Kingsnake, the Speckled Kingsnake is a moderately large snake with smooth scales, and a background color of black. Each scale has an irregular yellow marking that varies in size and shape giving the snake an overall speckled appearance. Speckled Kingsnakes vary in size from about eight inches as hatchlings to at least 72 inches as large adults. Typical adult size is 36 to 48 inches.

Speckled Kingsnakes are active from early Spring through late Fall. In Spring and Fall, these snakes are primarily active during the day but as temperatures increase in summer, they are active at dusk and at night. They occur in nearly all habitats, from riparian forests to open prairie.

Although Speckled Kingsnakes are often referred to as “cannibalistic,” they typically do not eat other Speckled Kingsnakes. These snakes are best known for their ability to eat large snakes, including venomous species such as Western Massasaugas and Prairie Rattlesnakes. A Speckled Kingsnake can eat snakes as long or longer than they are. Speckled Kingsnakes are harmless to people.

From the Reptiles and Amphibians of Oklahoma's WMAs by Laurie Vitt.