REPTILES OF IDAHO

Kaitlyn Sollender

Order Testudines (Turtles)

- Family Emydidae
- *Chrysemys picta* (Painted turtle)
- Found in northern Idaho
- The shell is smooth and olive or black in color. This species is distinguished by its red underside.

Order Squamata

- Suborder Lacertilia (Lizards)
- Family Anguidae
- *Elgaria coerulea* (Northern Alligator Lizard)
- Found in northern Idaho
- Has a lateral skin fold that expands while eating.

Order Squamata

- Suborder Lacertilia
- Family Crotaphytidae
- *Crotaphytus bicinctores* (Mojave black-collared lizard)
- Found in in southwestern Idaho
- Distinguished by a black and white collar on a slender neck

Order Squamata

- Suborder Lacertilia
- Family Crotaphytidae
- *Gambelia wislizeni* (Longnose leopard lizard)
- Found in most of southern Idaho
- Easily recognized by its leopard like spots on its body and legs with a long tail and large head.

Order Squamata

- Suborder Lacertilia
- Family Phrynosomatidae
- *Phrynosoma douglassi* (Short-horned lizard)
- Found in Sourthern Idaho
- Distinguished by the short horns on the back of the head. Can be a light gray to a dark gray depending on the soil they're found in.

Order Squamata

- Suborder Lacertilia
- Family Phrynosomatidae
- *Phrynosoma platyrhinos* (Desert-horned lizard)
- Found in Southwest Idaho
- Distinguished by the larger horns on the back of its head. Can be different in coloring from the short horned lizard and ranges from gray or tan, to red

Order Squamata

- Suborder Lacertilia
- Family Phrynosomatidae
- *Sceloporus graciosus* (Sagebrush lizard)
- Found in Southern Idaho
- Males have blue patches on the sides of their bodies but both sexes can have a rusty red stripe on their throats.

Order Squamata

- Suborder Lacertilia
- Family Phrynosomatidae
- *Sceloporus occidentalis* (Western fence lizard)
- Found in western Idaho
- Males have a blue patch on their throats as well as on the side of their bellies.

Order Squamata

- Suborder Lacertilia
- Family Phrynosomatidae
- *Uta stansburiana* (Side-blotched lizard)
- Located in southwestern Idaho
- Males have tiny blue flecks on their backs as well as orange patches on their throat, front legs, and side of the belly.

Order Squamata

- Suborder Lacertilia
- Family Scincidae
- *Eumeces skiltonianus* (Western skinks)
- Found almost everywhere in Idaho
- Young have a bright blue tail which fades to a dull blue or grey as an adult

Order Squamata

- Suborder Lacertilia
- Family Teiidae
- *Cnemidophorus tigris* (Western whip tail)
- Found in southwest Idaho
- Characterized by a tail twice its body length. Has four light stripes on its back with light spots between them

Order Squamata

- Suborder Ophidia
- Family Boidae
- *Charina bottae* (Rubber boa)
- Found in all of Idaho
- Stout like body which looks and feels like rubber.has a brown body with a yellow underbelly.

Order Squamata

- Suborder Ophidia
- Family Colubridae
- *Coluber constrictor* (Racer)
- Found in almost all of Idaho except the very northern tip
- Juveniles don't obtain color until they reach about 18 inches. Body is brown or olive with a yellow body.

Order Squamata

- Suborder Ophidia
- Family Colubridae
- *Diadophis punctatus* (Ringneck snake)
- Found in Midwest Idaho and a small part of southern Idaho
- Has a slate green back and a bright orange underside

Order Squamata

- Suborder Ophidia
- Family Colubridae
- *Hypsiglena taeniatus* (Night snake)
- Found in southwest Idaho
- Resembles a gopher snake but is distinguished by its smaller size, smooth scales, and vertical pupil. Is grey or beige with dark splotches

Order Squamata

- Suborder Ophidia
- Family Colubridae
- *Masticophis taeniatus* (Striped whipsnake)
- Found in southwest Idaho
- Dark and light stripes that run along both sides of the body

Order Squamata

- Suborder Ophidia
- Family Colubridae
- *Pituophis catenifer* (Gopher snake)
- Found in most of Idaho except for the northern tip
- Tan or light brown with dark brown or black splotches. Blotches are in rows

Order Squamata

- Suborder Ophidia
- Family Colubridae
- *Rhinocheilus lecontei* (Longnose snake)
- Found in a small portion of southwestern Idaho
- Dark surface with bands of red, orange, and yellow with a long pointed snout.

Order Squamata

- Suborder Ophidia
- Family Colubridae
- *Sonora semiannulata* (Ground snake)
- Found in a small portion of southwestern Idaho
- Two color phases are present in Idaho: orange and black bands or uniform grey, reddish, or tan.

Order Squamata

- Suborder Ophidia
- Family Colubridae
- *Thamnophis elegans* (Western terrestrial garter snake)
- Found in all areas of Idaho
- Brown or dark grey with a dull yellow or light brown stripe down its back

Western Terrestrial Gartersnake (*Thamnophis elegans*), juvenile

Photo Credit: James Bettaso
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Order Squamata

- Suborder Ophidia
- Family Colubridae
- *Thamnophis sirtalis* (Common garter snake)
- Found in all of Idaho
- Body is black with red blotches and a yellow stripe on both sides of that touch the red blotches.

Oder Squamata

- Suborder Ophidia
- Family Viperidae
- *Crotalus viridis* (Western rattlesnake)
- Found in most parts of Idaho except for the northern part.
- Have a triangular head, thin neck, thick body, and a short tail ending in a rattle.