

FIELD NOTES

This section provides a means of publishing natural history information on Virginia's amphibians and reptiles which does not lend itself to full-length articles. Observations on geographic distribution, ecology, reproduction, phenology, behavior and other areas are welcomed. Reports can be on a single species, groups of species or fauna from selected areas, such as a state park or county. The format of the reports is TITLE (species or area), COUNTY, and LOCATION, DATE OF OBSERVATION, OBSERVERS, DATA AND OBSERVATIONS. Names and addresses of authors should appear one line below the report. Consult published notes or the editor of this section if your information does not readily fit this format.

If the note includes information on geographic distribution, a voucher specimen or color slide should be taken for verification and deposited in a permanent museum or sent to the VaHS. Species identification for observational records should be verified by a second person.

Send records (double spaced, typed) or inquiries to Dr. Joseph C. Mitchell, Dept. of Biology, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 23173.

The correct citation is: Croy, S. 1984. Field notes: Lampropeltis getulus niger. Catesbeiana 4(1):12.

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Agkistrodon contortrix mokasen (Northern Copperhead) and Lampropeltis getulus getulus (Eastern Kingsnake): City of Suffolk, Virginia, Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, 5 km E Magnolia and 8 km W Bowers Hill. 2 August 1984. J. P. Megonigal.

On August 2, 1984 at 1100 hrs EDT I observed an adult eastern kingsnake and an adult copperhead (estimated 1.3-1.8m and 1.0-1.4m, respectively) knotted together with each apparently constricting the other. The copperhead's eyes appeared glazed and its mouth was ajar. It appeared the kingsnake had recently overcome the copperhead. After 90 min the kingsnake was one-half meter away from the original spot with its tail in a hole in a bank of a water-filled ditch. The copperhead was approximately half consumed (head first). Thirty minutes later the kingsnake was observed with approximately 10cm of the copperhead's tail protruding from its mouth. Within fifteen minutes of this last observation the kingsnake was gone. The copperhead was shorter but thicker than the kingsnake and had been observed in residence on the site of the confrontation for at least two years. The air temperature was 32<sup>o</sup> C (90<sup>o</sup> F) and it was sunny and humid.

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