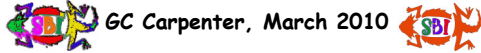


Grand Canyon/Colorado River Herps



Snakes--The most commonly observed snakes in the canyon are rattlesnakes, which are often heard before they are seen. Several other harmless snake species also are also frequently encountered in the canyon.

Grand Canyon Rattlesnake (*Crotalus oreganus abyssus*)—Common in upper reaches of the canyon-- from Lee's Ferry to Tuckup—"pinks" vary a great deal in color (see below). Pattern can be faint or distinct, but always consists of blotches rather than bands. Usually distinct stripes on the side of the face, and tail is banded and tip is distinctly black.—**VENOMOUS!**



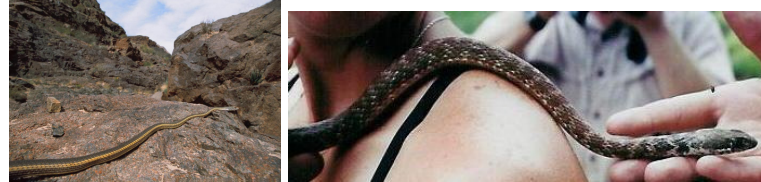
Speckled Rattlesnake (*Crotalus mitchelli*)—common in lower canyon, mile 160 and beyond, and found as high up as Havasu Canyon. Color varies from very light to pink, and pattern typically banded and rarely blotched. Lacks distinct face stripe the tip of the tail is not distinctly black-- **VENOMOUS!**



Black-tailed Rattlesnake (*Crotalus molossus*)—relatively uncommon in the canyon, may be encountered from Tuckup westward in corridor. The end of the tail is jet black, some green coloration and a distinct pattern of darker bands (blotch-like) that are bordered by light-colored scales-- **VENOMOUS!**



Whipsnakes (*Coluber*) These thin-bodied, big-eyed diurnal predators are very fast moving. The striped whipsnake (*C. taeniatus*; LEFT) is striped while the red racer (*C. flagellum* RIGHT) a subspecies of the coachwhip is often a brilliant red color.



California Kingsnake [BELOW LEFT] (*Lampropeltus getula*)—Kingsnakes may eat other snakes, even their own species. California kingsnakes in the canyon have a distinct pattern of light and dark bands.



Gophersnake[ABOVE RIGHT]] (*Pituophis catnifer*) large-bodied snake with dark brown blotches on cream-colored background. An abundant species throughout the west, gopher snakes are seldom seen in the river corridor.

Patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis*)—a smallish snake with beige and gray stripes and a large patch-shaped scale at the tip of the nose. These are diurnal predators that eat lizards and arthropods.



Toads and Frogs Two toad species are common on beaches in the canyon, and one treefrog species may be found up side canyons with water. Listen for toad calls at night.



Woodhouse's Toad (*Anaxyrus woodhousei*)— larger bodied than red-spotted toads—"woodies" have light mid-dorsal stripes and an oblong (kidney-shaped) parotoid gland behind each eye.



Red-spotted Toad (*Anaxyrus punctatus*)— smallish toads with red-spots, a triangular head, and round parotoid glands behind the eyes. Color varies, but the red spots are usually distinct. Good climbers.



Canyon Treefrog (*Hyla arenicolor*)— have special toes allow to cling to surfaces. Look for tadpoles and frogs along creeks and pools in side canyons.



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