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# PHOTO NOTES

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## NORTHERN PRAIRIE SKINK

The northern prairie skink (*Eumeces septentrionalis*), Manitoba's only lizard, occurs in Manitoba only in the sandy soils of the Upper Assiniboine Delta in the south-western portion of the province. It is listed as an endangered species in Canada. The main factor limiting its distribution is soil type, as only sandy soils permit the skink to burrow, in order to nest and overwinter.

Where we live, southwest of Portage la Prairie, our sandy soils mean that skinks are relatively common. I frequently see them in my garden or zipping across the yard. One unfortunate individual climbed

into my empty watering can and perished there, apparently unable to get out.

We found this one sunbathing one hot June morning on a neighbour's fence post. It was relaxed enough that I had time to rush and bring Allison Krause Danielsen, a Master's student at the University of Manitoba, who luckily happened to be on our property on that day on one of her regular bi-weekly visits to study skinks. Allison took the photo. The skink went on sunbathing!

- Ardythe McMaster, via E-mail: <mcmaster@xplornet.com>

