

from puddles after a rain, or from dew on vegetation. I have never observed this.

Apparently the body fluids of the two mice consumed were insufficient in terms of moisture content to satisfy this size of rattlesnake (weight 641.5 gm, length 98 cm). Therefore, it would appear that after emergence from overwintering dens, if a sufficient amount of food (i.e. rodents, ground-nesting birds) is not quickly consumed by Prairie Rattlesnakes, they may seek out water to compensate for dehydration during the overwintering period.

A WESTERN RECORD FOR THE PLAINS HOGNOSE SNAKE IN MANITOBA

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On 25 September 1983 I received a telephone call from Tom Sandy of the Oak Lake Indian Reserve, 4.8 km (3 mi.) north of Pipestone, Manitoba, about a snake two girls had killed the day before. He said it was definitely not a garter snake and asked whether I was interested in seeing and identifying it.

My wife and I whipped out to the reserve, got directions and sped to the spot where the reptile still lay, decapitated and almost decaudated (sans tail to the uninitiated). Immediate sight confirmed my suspicion: it was a Plains Hognose Snake, about 51 cm (20 in.) long. The location was NE 3-8-26 WPM in Manitoba, approximately 7.5 km (4.5 mi.) north of PTH 2 and a few hundred yards west of Pipestone Creek.

I collected the remains, put them "on ice" and reported the find to Dr. William Preston, Curator of Reptiles, Amphibians and Fishes, Manitoba Museum of Man

and Nature. He confirmed my identification. There was no doubt it was *Heterodon nasicus* and the location of the find was the westernmost record in Manitoba.

According to Dr. Preston, "it is quite possible that populations of these snakes were isolated by agriculture, but at the northern limit of their range, as here in Manitoba, the distribution would tend to be spotty."

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Previous western records for this snake in Manitoba were 10 km (6.2 mi.) west of Lauder, and at Oak Lake.^{1 2} The sighting near Lauder was 25 km (15.5 mi.) south and 6.5 km (4 mi.) east of the location reported by Braddell. Oak Lake is a community 14.5 km (9 mi.) north and 20 km (12.5 mi.) east of the new record.

¹ PRESTON, W.B. 1982. The amphibians and reptiles of Manitoba. Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature. 128 pp.

² SCOTT, V.H. 1970. The Western Hognose Snake. Zoolog 11(1):15-19.

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