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ELAPHE CARINATA CARINATA (Keel Rat snake). **DIET.** Keel rat snakes appear to be dietary generalists and have been known to prey on mice, rats, birds, bird eggs, frogs, lizards, snakes and reptile eggs (Schulz 1996. A monograph of the Colubrid snakes of the genus *Elaphe* Fitzinger. Koeltz Scientific Books, Würselen, Czechoslovakia. 439 pp.).

In September 2004 a monitoring program was initiated in a wetland habitat near an industrial park of Taoyuan County, northern Taiwan. We collected YOY *Elaphe carinata carinata* with prey items in their stomachs in permanent drift fence/funnel traps on 18 February, 26 March and 31 March, 2 males (391 and 393 mm SVL, 28 and 33 g) and 1 female (410 mm SVL, 37.7 g), respectively. The fence was set along the bank of a pond, where the dominant vegetation consists of *Bambusa oldhamii*, *Broussonetia papyrifera*, *Lantana camara*, and *Pennisetum purpureum*. Forced regurgitation revealed that the snakes had consumed one *Crocodyra attenuata* (Tanaka's Gray Shrew), two newborn *Apodemus agrarius* (Formosan Striped Field Mouse), one *Laevicaulis alte* (garden slug), and one *Takydromus stejnegeri* (Stejneger's Grass Lizard). In Taiwan, a chick, a beetle (Scarabaeidae), a grasshopper (Acridiidae), a damselfly (Euphaeidae) (Lin et al. 1995. Foods of snakes from Taiwan. *NOW* 3:19-21), *Dinodon rufozonatum* (Lee and Lue 1996. A preliminary study on the food habits of snakes in Taiwan. *Biol. Bull. National Taiwan Normal University*. 31:119-124), *Ptyas mucosus* (Hsien-Pin Chu, pers. comm.), and *Rattus rattus* (Norval pers. obs.) have been recorded as prey of *Elaphe carinata carinata*. To our knowledge this appears to be the first record of this snake species preying on shrews and land slugs.

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ELAPHE VULPINA (Western Foxsnake). **HABITAT USE.** *Elaphe vulpina* is a state endangered species (Missouri Dept. Conservation 2006. Missouri Species and Communities of Conservation Concern, Jefferson City, Missouri. 58 pp.) that occurs in northern Missouri, including Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge (SCNWR). Past research conducted on SCNWR suggests this spe-

cies avoids wetland centers and is associated with wetland prairies, wetland edges and developed lands (Shew 2004. Spatial Ecology and Habitat Use of the Western fox Snake (*Elaphe vulpina vulpina*) on Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge. Masters thesis. Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri. 51 pp.). Although observations have been made of this species preying upon duck nests on wetland edges (Wheeler 1984. *Wildl. Soc. Bull.* 12:77-78), they have not been reported to utilize wetland centers containing relatively deep water habitat (> 90cm).

During the period of May through mid-June 2005 and 2006, ca. 50 *E. vulpina* were observed utilizing deep water wetland habitats in a 239-ha marsh located on the southwest portion of SCNWR, Holt County, Missouri, USA. Individuals were typically observed in cattail (*Typha* sp.) patches coiled on Red-wing Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) and Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) nests, ca. 60-90 cm above the surface of the water. Using a geographic information system we calculated that the snakes had to swim a minimum of 130 m to reach the cattail patches where they were located. Utilization of this habitat type has been observed on SCNWR annually since 2001 by refuge staff members.

Although *E. vulpina* were never observed feeding on eggs or nestlings, depredation was suspected as this appears to be one of the major food resources in this habitat type during this time period which coincides with nesting period of several bird species. The three dominant species of arboreal nesting birds located in this habitat include the aforementioned blackbirds and Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*). Additionally, five other species of platform nesting birds may also be found in this habitat including Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*), American Bittern (*Bontaurus lentiginosus*), Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*), American Coot (*Fulica americana*), and Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*). The eggs and nestlings of all of these species represent potential prey items. Cattail patches as well as other deep water wetland vegetation may play a more significant role in the spatial ecology of the species than previously suspected. This relationship is likely on a temporal basis that coincides with wetland breeding bird activity. Further research on the habitat use of *E. vulpina* within managed wetlands may prove useful in fully understanding the ecology of this species.

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FARANCIA ABACURA REINWARDTII (Western Mud Snake). **REPRODUCTION.** Information regarding reproduction of *Farancia abacura reinwardtii* is limited due, in part, to its secretive habits. Specifically, copulation has only been reported once, by Anderson (1965. *The Reptiles of Missouri*. Univ. Missouri Press, Columbia. 330 pp.). Herein, we report on copulation of *F. a. reinwardtii* from Reelfoot Lake, Lake County, Tennessee, USA.

On 05 June 2005 at 1100 h, we observed (from a boat) a large (142 cm SVL, 162 cm TL) *F. a. reinwardtii* on the northwest bank of Horse Island Ditch at Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee (36°24'57"N, 89°22'30"W, NAD27). Upon approach, we noticed that the snake