

ONTARIO'S ONLY LIZARD

Field Guide to the Five-lined Skink (*Eumeces fasciatus*)



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TorontoZoo

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CANADA

The Five-lined Skink is a species of Special Concern. Its range, especially in Southern Ontario, has diminished and the decline is attributed to habitat loss and collection for the pet trade.

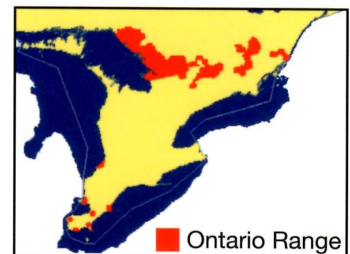


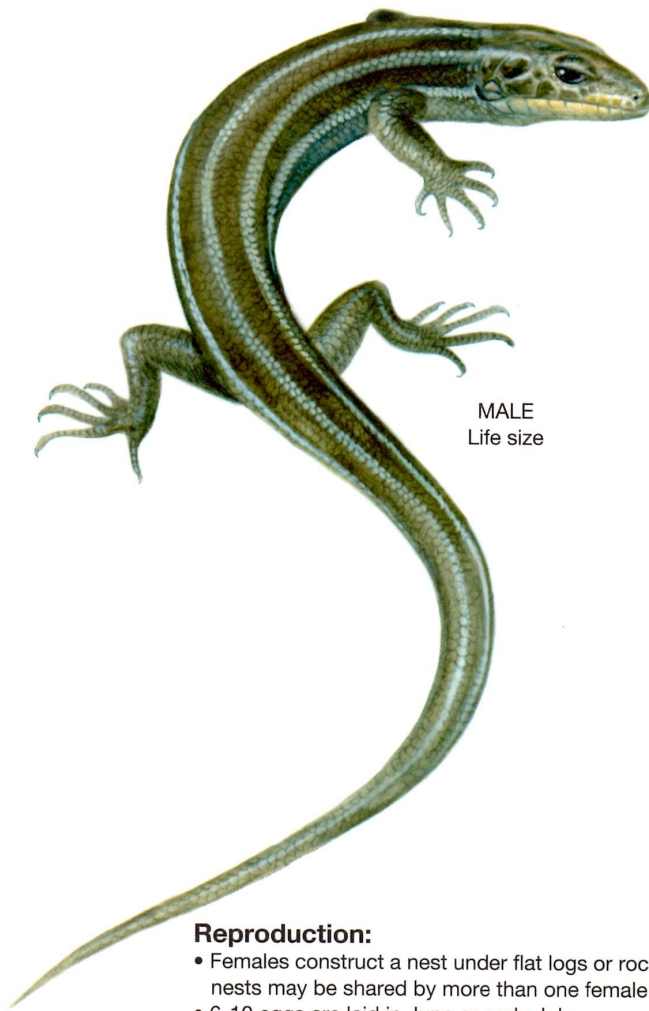
Life size

Juvenile Five-lined Skink

- Black with five yellow/cream stripes; fading with age
- Brilliant blue tail

It is illegal to hunt, possess, sell or purchase the Five-lined Skink under the provincial Game and Fish Act.

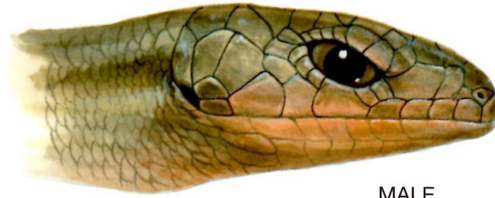




MALE
Life size

Five-lined Skink

- Length is 12.5-21.5 cm from snout to vent
- Brilliant juvenile colours fade with maturity to brown/grey/olive base and the five yellow/cream stripes darken so there is less contrast
- May lose their tail to predators, but a new shorter grey tail will grow again
- Males develop a reddish/orange colouring on their nose and jaw



MALE
2x Life size

Reproduction:

- Females construct a nest under flat logs or rocks; nests may be shared by more than one female.
- 6-10 eggs are laid in June or early July.
- Eggs hatch in 24-55 days.
- Hatchlings are brightly coloured; 3.5-6.4 cm long.



FEMALE AND EGGS
Life size

What's the difference? Lizard or Salamander...



BLUE SPOTTED
SALAMANDER



FIVE-LINED
SKINK

Salamanders are amphibians, lizards are reptiles. They both have long tails and four legs. But salamanders would quickly dry out if they lived in the hot, dry habitat that the Five-lined Skinks prefer.

- Lizards are covered in scales and are very active during the day.
- Salamanders have soft, moist skin, are slow moving and remain under shelter during the day.