



Illinois

# ENDANGERED & THREATENED SPECIES



## eastern massasauga

*Sistrurus catenatus*

[state endangered and federally threatened]

The eastern massasauga lives in wet prairies, bogs and old fields. This snake is active in the day, except in the hottest summer months when it becomes nocturnal. The eastern massasauga may take shelter in crayfish burrows or other underground cavities. It may be seen basking on grass, near crayfish burrows or in other open locations. If disturbed it may shake its rattle. This snake eats mice, small birds, frogs and snakes.

### Reasons for Concern

- habitat loss
- fragmented populations

