

dots along middle region of abdomen. Tip of tail for about one-thirtieth of an inch, all black (this is hardly noticeable, except when examined closely). Occipital ring of the width of two scales, not interrupted, colour of anterior part of body beneath. Head beneath and upper labials, pale flesh-colour. Iris and pupil black.

Number of abdominal scutellæ from chin to anus, $155 + 1$.

Number of pairs of subcaudal scutellæ, 56.

Number of dorsal rows of scales around the body (excluding the abdominal series), 15.

Total length (tip of snout to tip of tail), $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Length of tail (anus to tip), 1.09 inches.

The late Mr J. M. Jones, in his paper entitled "Contributions to the Natural History of Nova Scotia: Reptilia,"* speaks of the Ring Snake as our rarest species, and Dr. J. Bernard Gilpin† likewise considered it very uncommon. The former gentleman records only two specimens—one taken at Annapolis by Dr. Gilpin, and the other captured in September, 1863, at Mr. Andrew Downs' place near Halifax. Dr. Gilpin has only recorded one, which he captured at Fairy Lake, September, 1870, and for which he sacrificed a small flask of whiskey in order to preserve the valuable specimen. Some twenty-five or thirty years ago, my father, Mr. Henry Piers, saw one of these snakes swimming with great ease across the water at "Stony Beach," about twelve miles from Halifax, on the road to Prospect. The animal was about a foot and a half long, and the yellowish occipital ring was conspicuous. In 1885 a popular English periodical contained a few notes on snakes in captivity, written at Halifax, in which the writer spoke of having a Ring Snake which had been captured near the city in the summer of 1885. It must of course be understood that this, coming from an unscientific source, cannot be vouched for. I may say that I have now been so fortunate as to have personally observed all the serpents known to occur in Nova Scotia, two of which are extremely rare.

* *Trans. N. S. Inst. Nat. Sc.*, Vol. I., pt. 3, pp. 114-128.

† "On the Serpents of Nova Scotia," *Trans. N. S. Inst. Nat. Sc.*, Vol. IV., pp. 80-88