

Northern Fence Lizard

Northern Fence Lizard - PL8

(*Sceloporus undulatus hyacinthinus*)

Identification: 3 1/2" - 7 1/2". The Northern Fence Lizard is the only Spiny Lizard (genus *Sceloporus*) in our area. As in other Spiny Lizards, the scales on the back of the Northern Fence Lizard are keeled and pointed. There is a dark lengthwise stripe on the back of the thigh in both sexes, which otherwise differ in coloration and pattern. The male is brown, with little or no pattern on the back; the sides of the belly and base of the throat are a vibrant blue. The female is gray, with a pattern of wavy lines on the back; the blue markings on the belly and throat are paler and cover less area than in the male.

Where to find them: The Northern Fence Lizard is arboreal, commonly found on tree trunks, rotting logs, stumps and fences. It is occasionally found on the ground, but will quickly dash to a tree for safety. It prefers open pine woods.

When to find them: May through September.

Range: All of Southern Region. In Northern Region, Monmouth County and southern Mercer and Middlesex Counties. Documented along pitch pine ridges in the Pennsylvania portion of the Delaware Water Gap. May occur in the northwest region of New Jersey.

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Key Features

- Scales keeled and pointed.
- Gray or brown with a spiny appearance.
- Dark line extends along thigh.



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Excerpt from: "Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey"
Order the complete guide at - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/products.htm>