

## *Water Moccasin Coloration with Aging*



Color intensity may vary from animal to animal, but younger moccasins are brighter while the oldest are nearly black. They will always have the wide, dark band along the side of the head through the eye and a small projecting ridge over the eye..

Younger ones are confused with Copperheads, who are similarly colored but whose range doesn't extend to Southwest Florida.

Older ones are confused with Banded Water Snakes, both of whom are "heavy bodied." The Banded Water Snake always has a "tortoise shell" pattern on the lower jaw, lacks the wide head band, and doesn't have a projecting ridge over the eye.

*Uncle Dick*