

Trip to Ubon Ratchathani, Not Intending to Snake Hunt

I just returned from a trip to Ubon in the northeast. Though I didn't do any active snake hunting, in two days I saw two snakes. The first was a striped keelback that I passed on the road, I thought it was hit by the wheel of a motorbike. I circled around and found it struggling to pull it's teeth out of a fresh road killed frog on the pavement. It was trapped there, looking at me and frantically trying to unsnag his teeth. Finally it did so and disappeared in the tall grass. Lovely snake...

The second, I had just stopped to put on my rain poncho on the side of the highway and a 2 meter *Ptyas carinatus* – black as coal, came out of the grass by a pool of water and mud – and crossed the dirt road I stopped on – not more than 3 meters from me. Awesome... I didn't chase, as it also disappeared into thick vegetation.

I'd say snake hunting in the northeast is probably more productive than it is in the south during the heavy rains.

Another report, this one from down south... While I was away in Ubon, 1600km north east... I got a call from a friend that he had just caught a 2 meter king cobra and did I want to come and pick it up??

HA! Damn me! I could have died... that's just the size king I wanted to see too...

Oh well, it doesn't often happen that snakes are found when you're looking, but even less when you're not looking. The snakes seem to be out and about at the moment. The ID requests here at Thailand Snakes are going through the roof, but it's fun seeing all the photos. If you've got some – send 'em!

Cheers,

Vern