

Show & Tell



A friend who spent this past Christmas season with us asked to see the Variable Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis thayeri*) he gave me the year before. I went to the rack where it is kept and could NOT find it. I recalled when I last fed it, but could not find that snake. After exhaustively searching all racks, it was apparent that this snake was no longer caged. Our snake building is "reverse" snake-proofed (all conceivable exits are blocked). Trashes are covered and circulating fans are draped with netting, so I generally do not worry about escape or injury, but snakes have left the building—in the past—via being hauled out in boxes we'd put into storage upstairs? We always keep bowls of fresh water on the floor, next to walls, so I never worry about errant snakes dying from dehydration, but even the most unforeseeable scenarios have occurred? Recently, I carelessly allowed a Trans-pecos Ratsnake to escape its cage so I increased the number of tape traps on the floors (we only use softly stick Painter's/masking tape). I noted crumpling and displacement of some of those traps, but naturally presumed it was the TP Ratsnake evading capture. Imagine my surprise on the morning of April 2nd when I turned a corner to open the office door, to see a snake helplessly entangled in 1/2" masking tape (see pic 2). . . .