

striped shiner *Luxilus chrysocephalus*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Osteichthyes

Order: Cypriniformes

Family: Leuciscidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The striped shiner is three to five inches long. It has dark stripes on its back that meet behind the dorsal fin. The green back has a dark stripe in the center while the silver sides have a bronze cast. A large male and occasionally a female may have a pink or red body and fins. Dark pigment can be seen on the chin.

BEHAVIORS

The striped shiner may be found statewide in Illinois except for the northwestern one-fourth. This fish lives in creeks and rivers with rock bottoms. The striped shiner swims in schools in association with other minnows. Spawning occurs in the spring over the nests of the hornyhead chub. This fish eats insects, fishes, plant materials, algae and dead organic matter.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

rivers & streams

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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