

channel shiner *Notropis wickliffi*

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Actinopterygii

Order: Cypriniformes

Family: Leuciscidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The origin of the dorsal fin is about equally placed between the tip of the snout and the base of the tail. The stripe along each side of the body fades toward the head. Teeth are present in the throat. There are no scales on the breast. The back is yellow-green, and the sides and belly are silver-white. The fins are plain. Breeding males may have tubercles on their head and pectoral fins. Adults are about one and three-fourths to two and three-fourths inches long.

BEHAVIORS

The channel shiner lives in the Mississippi and Ohio rivers and the lower reaches of their large tributaries. As its name indicates, this species tends to live in the open river channel in schools near the surface often associated with other shiners. It spawns from late spring through late summer. The diet is composed of small aquatic animals.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

rivers and streams

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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