

greater redhorse *Moxostoma valenciennesi*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Osteichthyes

Order: Cypriniformes

Family: Catostomidae

ILLINOIS STATUS endangered, native

FEATURES

The greater redhorse may attain a length of two feet. Its red tail is a prominent feature. There are rows of dark spots (one per scale base) on the back and sides. Its upper body is copper-colored while the lower body is yellow or white. The rounded snout contains a large mouth. The teeth in the throat are thin, like those of a comb.

BEHAVIORS

The greater redhorse may be found in the Illinois, Vermilion and Fox rivers in Grundy, Kendall, La Salle and Livingston counties. It lives in sandy, rocky pools and runs of rivers and lakes. The water must be clear and unpolluted. Spawning occurs in spring. The greater redhorse feeds in schools on the bottom, eating bottom ooze, mollusks and aquatic insects.

In Illinois, the greater redhorse is an endangered species. It lives only in the Illinois, Vermilion and Fox rivers in Grundy, Kendall, LaSalle and Livingston counties. It was considered extirpated from the state until its rediscovery in 1985. Maintaining good water quality and protection from siltation, turbidity and pollution are the management needs for this species.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

lakes, ponds and reservoirs; rivers and streams

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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