

# greenside darter

## *Etheostoma blennioides*

Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Chordata  
Class: Actinopterygii  
Order: Perciformes  
Family: Percidae

### ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

### FEATURES

The snout of the greenside darter extends beyond its mouth. There is a nipplelike projection at the middle of the upper lip. The upper lip is separated from the snout by a groove. The back and upper sides are yellow-green with six or seven dark crossbars and scattered orange spots. The lower sides have large V- or W-shaped blotches. A dark bar is present below the eye and in front of the eye. The dorsal fins are rust-colored at the base, and all fins, except the pelvic, have brown lines. The breeding male has bright green and blue-green coloration on his head, body and fins. The average length of the greenside darter is two and one-half to four and one-half inches. Its life span is about three years.

### BEHAVIORS

The greenside darter lives in streams and rivers in east central Illinois. It spawns from March through April. Each breeding male defends a territory. The female attaches the eggs to filamentous algae. Eggs hatch in about 18 days. The greenside darter feeds during the day, eating insects and snails.

### ILLINOIS RANGE



© Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2020. *Biodiversity of Illinois*.

Unless otherwise noted, photos and images © Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

female

© Uland Thomas



male

© Uland Thomas





adult

**Aquatic Habitats**

rivers and streams

**Woodland Habitats**

none

**Prairie and Edge Habitats**

none