

greenside darter *Etheostoma blennioides*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Osteichthyes

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.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

rivers and streams

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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