

river shiner *Notropis blennius*

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Osteichthyes

Order: Cypriniformes

Family: Leuciscidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The river shiner averages about two to three and one-half inches in length. Its mouth extends to beneath the front of its eye. The yellow back has a dark stripe in the middle and scales outlined in black. The silver sides may have a dark stripe on the back half. The belly is silver-white. A breeding

male has small projections (tubercles) on its pectoral fins.

BEHAVIORS

The river shiner may be found in the Mississippi, Rock, Illinois, Ohio and Wabash rivers in Illinois. It lives over sand and gravel areas in these rivers where the current is not strong. The river shiner schools in midwater in association with other minnows. Spawning occurs from spring through summer. This fish eats insects.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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