

# taillight shiner

## *Notropis maculatus*

Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Chordata  
Class: Actinopterygii  
Order: Cypriniformes  
Family: Cyprinidae

### ILLINOIS STATUS

endangered, native

### FEATURES

The taillight shiner has a black spot at the base of the caudal fin. The edges of the scales on its back and sides are darkly pigmented, making a cross-hatching pattern. There is a black blotch on the front of the dorsal fin, and the origin of the dorsal fin is behind the origin of the pelvic fins. There is green-brown coloration on the back. A dark stripe on each side continues around the snout. The sides are silver-white. The snout may show red coloration. Teeth are present in the throat. The lateral line is incomplete. Breeding males have bright-red coloration of the body and head with black-red fin edges. They also have tubercles on the head and pectoral fins. Adults range from about two to three inches in length.

### BEHAVIORS

Taillight shiners live in swamps, ponds, oxbow lakes and rivers usually with many aquatic plants present. They form schools in mid-water. Their diet is composed of small aquatic animals and algae. Spawning occurs in early spring and summer. The life span of this species is about one year.

### ILLINOIS RANGE



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### **Aquatic Habitats**

rivers and streams; swamps; lakes, ponds and reservoirs

### **Woodland Habitats**

southern Illinois lowlands

### **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

none