



American eel

Anguilla rostrata

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates
Class: Osteichthyes
Order: Anguilliformes
Family: Anguillidae

FEATURES

The American eel grows to a maximum length of 60 inches. Its average size is two and one-half pounds in weight and 16 to 33 inches in length. The female is larger than the male. The body is snake-like with no pelvic fins. The dorsal fin covers more than half the length of the body and is connected to the tail fin which in turn connects to the anal fin. The head is pointed, and the lower jaw extends beyond the upper jaw. The body is yellow or brown on the back and sides with a yellow or white belly. The scales are tiny.

BEHAVIORS

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anal fin. The head is pointed, and the lower jaw extends beyond the upper jaw. The body is yellow or brown on the back and sides with a yellow or white belly. The scales are tiny.

HABITATS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> bottomland forests | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rivers & streams |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lakes, ponds & reservoirs | <input type="checkbox"/> swamps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> temp water supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> marshes | <input type="checkbox"/> wet prairies & fens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> peatlands | |

ILLINOIS STATUS

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> common | <input type="checkbox"/> endangered | <input type="checkbox"/> threatened |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> native | <input type="checkbox"/> exotic | |

ILLINOIS RANGE

statewide except the northeastern 1/4

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.