



- bottomland forests
- lakes, ponds & reservoirs
- Lake Michigan
- marshes
- peatlands
- rivers & streams
- swamps
- temp water supplies
- wet prairies & fens

### ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

Two species of freshwater shrimps are native to Illinois. One of them may no longer be found in the state. Populations of the other species have shown marked declines. Habitat loss due to increased siltation and loss of aquatic vegetation seem to have led to the decline.

### ILLINOIS RANGE

statewide

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

## freshwater shrimp

representative species

Kingdom: Animalia  
Division/Phylum: Arthropoda  
Class: Malacostraca  
Order: Decapoda  
Family:

### FEATURES

Freshwater shrimps have five pairs of legs, the first two pairs with grasping claws. Their abdomen is flattened from side to side. Two species of shrimps are native to Illinois. The more commonly found species, *Palaemonetes kadiakensis*, is transparent with green eyes, red-brown antennae and many small, red-brown specks scattered over the body. The internal organs are easily seen. This shrimp reaches slightly over two inches in length.

### BEHAVIORS

Freshwater shrimps may be found throughout much of Illinois although they are more common in the southern one-half of the state. *Palaemonetes kadiakensis* lives in swamps, swamplike streams and sluggish water where aquatic vegetation is abundant. Females carry their orange eggs under their abdomen between April and August. The average number of eggs per female is 87. The eggs hatch, and the free-swimming larvae undergo rapid development for three weeks. Adults disappear in late summer to early fall. The life span ranges from one to two years. The diet consists of plants and animals, both living and dead.

### HABITATS