



gravel chub

Erimystax x-punctatus

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates
Class: Osteichthyes
Order: Cypriniformes
Family: Cyprinidae

FEATURES

The gravel chub is a slender fish with an average length of two and one-half to three and one-half inches. The "X"-shaped marks on the back and sides are distinctive. A small, cone-shaped barbel (whisker-like projection) is present at each corner of the mouth. The snout extends beyond the upper lip. The back is green-yellow with a dusky stripe in the center while the sides are silvery, sometimes with a faint stripe. A small, black spot is often present at the base of the tail. The breeding male is covered with tubercles (bumps) on the head and front portion of the body.

BEHAVIORS

The gravel chub lives in streams which are clear or with moderate turbidity, permanent flow and a gravel bottom. The gravel chub lives on or near the bottom of the stream, resting behind or under rocks. It spawns in early spring in gravel riffles. This fish is an omnivore, feeding on both plant and animal material it finds in crevices on the bottom.

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

ILLINOIS RANGE

statewide

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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