



northern clearwater crayfish

Orconectes propinquus

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

FEATURES

The northern clearwater crayfish has large claws. The claws have red tips and a black band near the end. Its back is green to reddish-brown.

BEHAVIORS

The northern clearwater crayfish lives in clean, rocky riffles of creeks and rivers. This crayfish may dig under rocks in the stream to avoid drying out when water level in the stream is low. It may also dig into the stream bank. Free-swimming young appear in late spring. Most reach maturity by fall. Mating takes place in fall or early spring. About 150 to 300 eggs per female are laid in March or April and hatch in four to six weeks. Those individuals that reach maturity and reproduce in their first year, die after reproducing. Those individuals that mature in the second growing season usually live two years or sometimes three years. The northern clearwater crayfish is an omnivore, feeding on plant material and insect larvae.

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

Lake Michigan + Mississippi, Wabash, & Illinois Rivers

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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