



warmouth

Chaenobryttus gulosus

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates
Class: Osteichthyes
Order: Perciformes
Family: Centrarchidae

FEATURES

The warmouth has a heavy body and a large mouth, with the upper jaw reaching the middle of the eye or beyond. The average length is about eight inches. Teeth are present on the tongue. Dark lines may be seen on the body behind the red eye. The presence of three anal spines helps to distinguish this species from the similar rock bass, which has six anal spines. The back and sides of a warmouth are greenish-brown with dark blotches, while the belly is light yellow. The fins have dark brown spots and bands. Breeding males have the flap on the gill cover edged with red, and the pelvic and anal fins outlined in white.

BEHAVIORS

The warmouth lives in swamps, sloughs, ditches and other areas with clear water, little or no current and plenty of plants. Spawning occurs May through August. The male fans a nest on the bottom into which the female deposits

eggs. Eggs hatch in a little over a day. The male remains with the nest from the time of egg deposition through the time when the young leave it, several days later. The warmouth eats crayfish, insects, fishes and aquatic sowbugs.

HABITATS

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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