



## bullhead minnow

*Pimephales vigilax*

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

## FEATURES

The bullhead minnow may attain a length of one and one-half to three inches. Its large eyes are located on the upper half of its head. A black spot is present on the front of the dorsal fin. The body appears to be nearly square when looked at head-on. The round snout has a dark, crescent-shaped mark on each side above the upper lip. The back is green. The scales are darkly outlined with pigment, giving them a cross-hatched effect. The scales in front of the dorsal fin are small and tightly packed. A dark stripe is present along the silver-blue side, and a black spot can be seen at the base of the tail fin. The breeding male is dark and has a silver bar behind the gill cover, a black head and projections (tubercles) on the snout.

## BEHAVIORS

The bullhead minnow may be found statewide in Illinois. This fish lives in creeks and rivers over a sand, silt or gravel substrate. The bullhead minnow swims in schools on or near the bottom in association with other minnow species. It spawns in late spring and early summer in a cavity dug by the male under an object on the bottom of the water body. The female deposits eggs on the roof of the cavity.

The eggs are guarded by the male until hatching occurs in about four and one-half days. The bullhead minnow eats mainly insects but will feed on other items including plant materials.

## HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

## 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

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.

Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.