



blackspotted topminnow

Fundulus olivaceus

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata
Class: Osteichthyes
Order: Atheriniformes
Family: Fundulidae

FEATURES

The blackspotted topminnow may attain a length of two to three inches with the male growing to a larger size than the female. Dark spots are present on the upper one-half of the body. A wide, dark stripe can be seen along the sides, around the snout and onto the tail fin. The edges of this stripe are straight in females but uneven in males. The back and upper sides are light brown while the belly and lower sides are white to yellow. The fins are yellow, and the dorsal, caudal and anal fins have many dark spots. The dorsal fin is placed directly above the anal fin. The life span is about three years.

BEHAVIORS

The blackspotted topminnow may be found in the southern one-fourth of Illinois. This fish lives in clear water with many plants in creeks, rivers, ponds and lakes. The blackspotted topminnow spawns in summer. The male and female defend a small territory. The eggs are deposited singly on plants or algae. Swimming near the surface in the early morning, late afternoon and evening, the blackspotted topminnow eats small crustaceans and insects.

HABITATS

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

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: southern 1/4

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.