

Common Name: Bullhead Catfish

Scientific Name: *Ameiurus* spp

Size: 62 cm (2 ft)



Field Notes:

Common Name: Largemouth Bass

Scientific Name: *Micropterus salmoides*

Size: 75 cm (2.5 ft)



Field Notes:

Habitat: Low oxygen, muddy areas in lakes and ponds

Fact: omnivorous bottom feeders: insects, leeches, snails, fish, clams, and many plants. Very tolerant of low oxygen and/or muddy conditions

Identifying Characteristics:

- non-forked, squared tail
- mottled, brown appearance
- chin barbels

Habitat: Warm upper waters of lakes, rivers or pools. Seeks logs, rock ledges, vegetation, and man-made structures for shelter.

Fact: Top predators-feeds on bluegill, shad, shiners and other minnow species, small catfish, sunfish, large invertebrates, and frogs. Hide among plants, roots or limbs to strike their prey. Will not spawn if the pH is less than 5 and eggs will not hatch if the pH is greater than 9.6

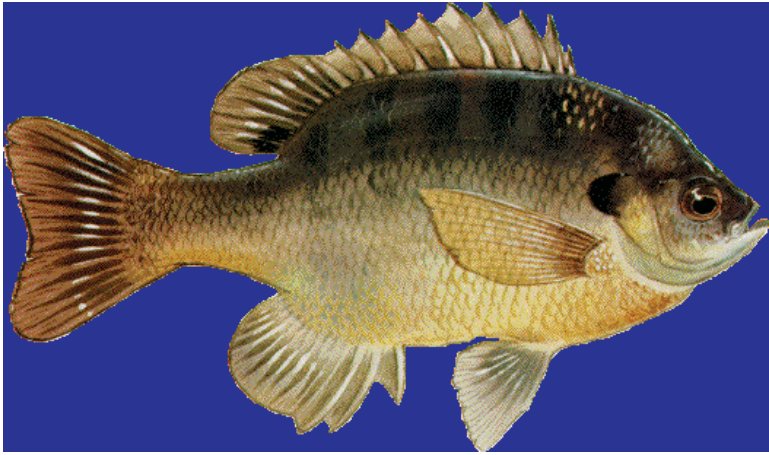
Identifying Characteristics:

- usually green with dark blotches that form a horizontal stripe along the middle of the body
- underside ranges in color from light green to almost white
- upper jaw reaches far beyond the rear margin of the eye

Common Name: Bluegill

Scientific Name: *Lepomis macrochirus*

Size: 10-41 cm (1 ft)



Field Notes:

Common Name: Channel Catfish

Scientific Name: *Ictalurus punctatus*

Size: up to 1.2 m (4 ft)



Field Notes:

Habitat: vegetated lakes, ponds, swamps, creeks, and rivers

Fact: Lays its eggs in a nest, which is guarded by male fish. A single nest may contain eggs in various stages of development. Young fish feed on plankton, eventually diet shifts to macroinvertebrates. Up to 50% of their diet may consist of midge larvae

Identifying Characteristics:

- dark spot on gill cover
- vertical bars on sides
- small mouth

Habitat: most abundant in large streams with low or moderate current

Fact: Eats organic detritus, aquatic insects, zooplankton and fishes. Spawn in late spring or early summer when water temperatures reach 75°F. One of the most preferred fish to catch in Texas.

Identifying Characteristics:

- tail deeply forked
- upper jaw longer than lower
- barbels around the mouth
- scaleless
- young have body spots

Common Name: Rio Grande Cichlid

Scientific Name: *Cichlasoma cyanoguttatum*

Size: 152 mm (6 in)



Habitat: Pools and runs of small to large rivers. Will not survive below 49°F.

Fact: eats small fish, insects and crustaceans. Pollution-tolerant omnivorous species, indicator of an unbalanced or stressed ecosystem. May displace native Centrarchidae when aquatic conditions are less than optimal.

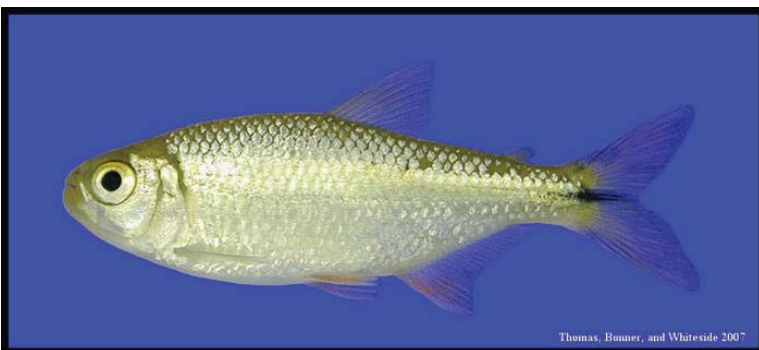
Identifying Characteristics:

- color varies from very dark to light olive
- dorsal and anal fins are long and tapered extending behind the fleshy portion of the tail
- males develop a hump on their head
- looks speckled with cream and turquoise spots

Common Name: Mexican Tetra

Scientific Name: *Astyanax mexicanus*

Size: up to 100 mm (4 in)



Habitat: wide range of freshwater habitats. Adults prefer rocky/sandy bottomed pools in creeks, streams and rivers

Fact: eats aquatic insects, crustaceans, worms, snails, smaller fish, plants and algae

Identifying Characteristics:

- silver except for a black lateral band on the caudal fin
- forked tail
- small dorsal fin
- comparatively large and strong teeth

Field Notes:

Common Name: Greenthroat Darter

Scientific Name: *Etheostoma lepidum*

Size: up to 64 mm (2.5 in)

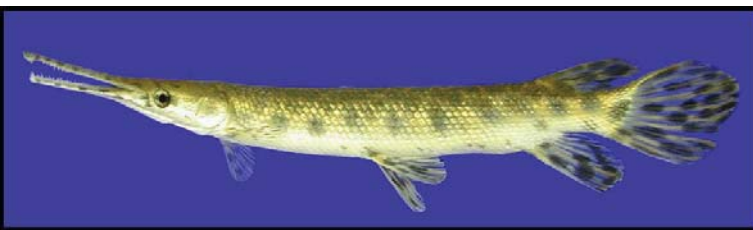


Field Notes:

Common Name: Spotted Gar

Scientific Name: *Lepisosteus oculatus*

Size: 1m (3.6 ft)



Field Notes:

Habitat: riffles, non-turbid cool springs and vegetated pools, benthic after hatching

Fact: found in spring systems (headwaters and spring runs)

Identifying Characteristics:

- color ranges
- small and slender body with small rounded head
- females have yellow to white belly
- males have green/blue throat and orange belly

Habitat: Mainly clear, quiet waters with aquatic vegetation

Fact: move slowly unless trying to catch food, which it grabs in its jaws in a quick sideways lunge. Prey is usually swallowed headfirst. Lifespan up to 18 yrs. Have a specialized swim bladder which allows them to gulp air and live in low oxygen conditions.

Identifying Characteristics:

- long and cylindrical with long mouths
- back and upper sides olive with numerous dark oval spots on head, body, fins
- large canine teeth in one row on each side of upper jaw
- Young have a brown mid-lateral band

Common Name: Blackstripe Topminnow

Scientific Name: *Fundulus notatus*

Size: 7.4 cm (3 in)



Field Notes:

Common Name: Mosquito Fish

Scientific Name: *Gambusia affinis*

Size: up to 5 cm (2 in)



Field Notes:

Habitat: Prefers slow moving creeks

Fact: Eats mainly insects; spawns in plants; eggs stick to submerged live or dead plants; fairly tolerant of high temperatures and low oxygen levels

Identifying Characteristics:

- spots on body and fins
- body with distinct lateral band that extends from snout to tail
- back yellow to light olive-brown, with a few dark spots

Habitat: Vegetated ponds, lakes, drainage ditches, and backwaters of sluggish creeks. Tends to swim near surface.

Fact: Will rise to water surface and breath thin film of air at very low oxygen levels; have internally fertilized eggs; feed on insect larvae (prefer mosquito larvae), invertebrates, algae and fish fry, including its own progeny; widely introduced for mosquito control, however they've reduced or eliminated native fish population.

Identifying Characteristics:

- top of head dusky
- bluish black spot below eye
- back/olive color with scattered black spots
- abdomen silvery to whitish

Common Name: Central Stoneroller

Scientific Name: *Campostoma anomalum*

Size: up to 23 cm (9 in)



Field Notes:

Common Name: Red Shiner or Red-horse Minnow

Scientific Name: *Cyprinella lutrensis*

Size: up to 9 cm (3.5 in)



Field Notes:

Habitat: Riffles (gravel substrate), benthic, likes cool, clear water

Fact: Eats algae, diatoms and detritus. Males build nests in gravel riffles by "rolling" larger stones away; eggs adhesive and attached to stones in nest; males defend nests

Identifying Characteristics:

- snout blunt and rounded
- thick bodies
- olive\brown above, often dark stripe along side
- dark spot on back fin of young
- irregular dark blotches on back and side
- breeding males have orange fins, white lips, & bright red eye

Habitat: Lakes, rivers, creeks in pools and riffles especially backwaters and creek mouths with sand and silt substrates; ususally not present in clear water

Fact: Spawning may occur on riffles, on or near submerged objects, over vegetation beds, or in association with sunfish nests. Adults typically school in midwater or near the surface. Eats insects and algae. Tolerant of siltation and frequent high turbidity

Identifying Characteristics:

- olive green above, silver on sides
- spawning males become bluish on the sides and fins get red
- abdomen whitish

Common Name: Gray Redhorse "Sucker"

Scientific Name: *Moxostoma congestum*

Size: up to 70 cm (2 ft)



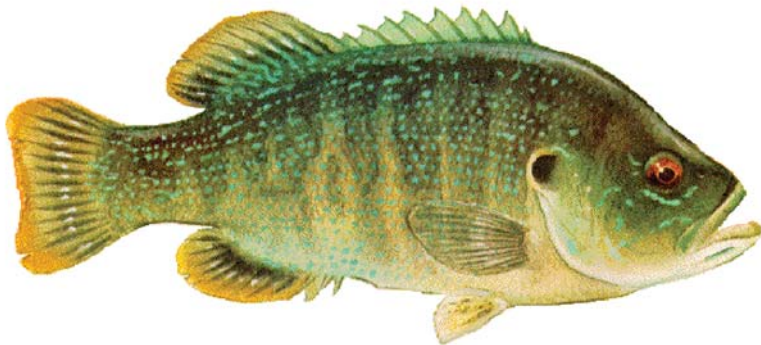
Thomas, Bonner, and Whiteside 2007

Field Notes:

Common Name: Green Sunfish

Scientific Name: *Lepomis cyanellus*

Size: up to 25 cm (10 in)



Field Notes:

Habitat: Rock, sand, or gravel bottomed pools and deep runs

Fact: Eats algae, crayfish, snails, small clams, larval insects

Identifying Characteristics:

- mouth like a vacuum
- black grayish or yellowish brown to greenish
- sides silvery
- abdomen whitish

Habitat: Tolerant of many habitats; common in ponds, lakes, and in areas of creek with little flow

Fact: Eats insects, mollusks, and small fishes. Eggs are laid in nests scooped out of gravel or sandy silt by the male who guards the nest.

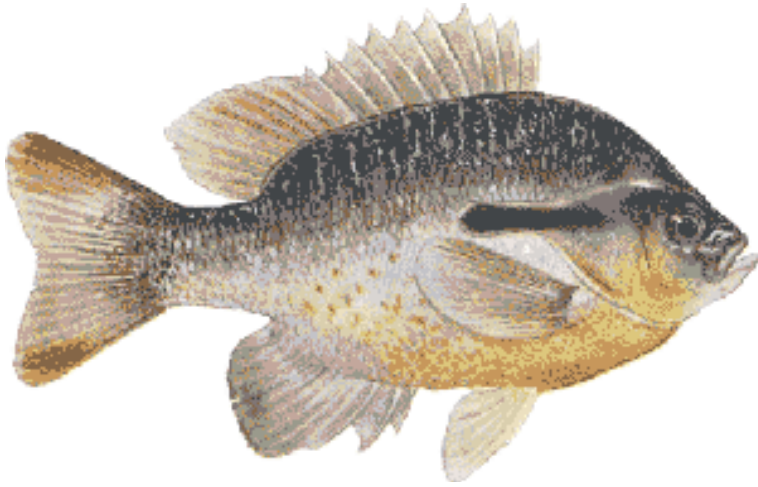
Identifying Characteristics:

- dark green, almost blue
- faint vertical bars are apparent on the sides
- some scales have turquoise spots
- dark spot at posterior base of dorsal fin

Common Name: Redbreast Sunfish

Scientific Name: *Lepomis auritus*

Size: up to 24 cm (9 in)

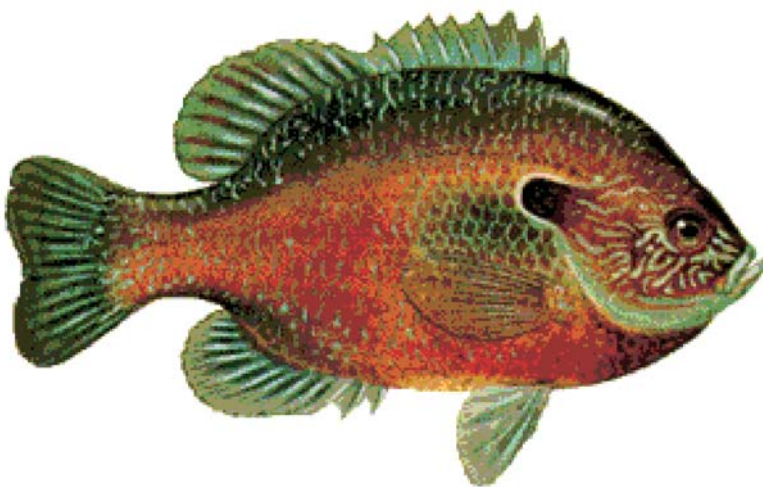


Field Notes:

Common Name: Longear Sunfish

Scientific Name: *Lepomis megalotis*

Size: up to 20 cm (8 in)



Field Notes:

Habitat: Ponds, lakes and creeks

Fact: Adults feed on insects, snails, crayfish, and small fish. Nests are solitary, usually adjacent to logs or some other structure and are usually constructed over sand.

Identifying Characteristics:

- yellow, orange, or rusty color belly
- long opercle flap (ear) up to 1 in.
- typically a larger sunfish (up to 1 lb)

Habitat: Ponds, lakes, clear creeks

Fact: Feed at the surface of the water. Eat mainly aquatic insects, mites, microcrustaceans, fish eggs, mollusks, filamentous algae, and small fish.

Identifying Characteristics:

- brown to olive green back with bright blue spots
- elongated opercle flap is always trimmed in white in adults
- colorful-males are often bright orange or scarlet
- the head and fins usually have turquoise markings