

EA Project No. 60653.01

PRELIMINARY REPORT
on the Status of
Notropis nubilus, Hybognathus
hankinsoni, Rhinichthys
cataractae, and Campostoma
oligolepis in Illinois

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This report summarizes our preliminary findings regarding the status of ozark minnow (Notropis nubilus), brassy minnow (Hybognathus hankinsoni), longnose dace (Rhinichthys cataractae), and largescale stoneroller (Campostoma oligolepis). A final report will be submitted after all samples have been processed and the data analyzed.

METHODS

Sampling trips originally planned for June and July had to be cancelled because of high water. All sampling was conducted in August, during which a total of 58 sites were sampled (Table 1). An attempt was made to visit all historical localities in the northern quarter of Illinois for all species except C. oligolepis, and the Lake Michigan sites for R. cataractae. Most collections were made using a 10 ft. seine with 3/16" mesh, however, a few sites were also samples using a 30 ft. long bag seine with 3/16" mesh in the straight part of the seine and 1/8" mesh in the bag. No attempt was made to preserve all species or species, however, most target species were retained and any other species representing unusual records were also preserved.

RESULTS

TARGET SPECIES

Hybognathus hankinsoni

This appears to be the rarest of the four target species. Sixteen of the twenty-one (76%) known localities were visited and it was found only at two locations. Approximately 20 other localities were visited that were near historical localities but no brassy minnows were collected at any of these locations. One specimen was collected from Rush Creek at Skene Road, 2 miles northeast of Derinda Center in Jo Daviess Co., one of the historical localities and two specimens were collected from the Plum River 1 mile southeast of Elmoville in Jo Daviess Co., another of the historical localities. Pope Creek in Mercer and Knox counties, the stream where it previously was most common, was visited on 22 August; however, high water prevented sampling at the two historical localities. A single collection made approximately 5 miles upstream of the Knox Co. historical locality did not yield any brassy minnows.

Given the fact that it was collected at only two of the sixteen historical localities visited and that it was rare (1 or 2 specimens) even at these two locations, we recommend that it be elevated to threatened status. If surveys of Pope Creek under normal stream flows fail to produce any specimens, a designation of endangered is probably warranted.

Notropis nubilus

The ozark minnow is doing better than the brassy minnow but it has also declined compared to earlier records. Fourteen of the twenty-two (64%) localities where it was know previously were visited. The total of 22 localities does not include two sites which were identified only to county. Ozark minnow was found at 6 of the 14 (43%) historical sites visited and at two new sites. Locations where it was collected were as follows:

N. Br Kinnikinnik Ck (St 18) - 5 specimens
 Grove Ck (St 33) - 1
 Crane Grove Ck (St 38) - 8
 Clear Ck (St 42) - 4
 S. Fk Apple R. (St 43) - ~16
 Apple R (St 44) - 3
 Mile Ck (St 46) - 2
 Apple R (St 47) - ~40

The first three streams listed are in the Rock River drainage while the remainder are in the Apple River watershed. Ozark minnow was rare to uncommon at 6 of the 8 sites where it was encountered and common at two sites (both on the Apple River). These collections indicate that the abundance and distribution of Ozark minnow have remained fairly constant in the Apple River watershed, but that its abundance and distribution within the Rock River drainage have declined considerably. Given this decline in abundance and the restricted nature of its distribution in Illinois, we recommend that it be considered for threatened status.

Rhinichthys cataractae

Most of the Illinois records of this species are from the shoreline of Lake Michigan. Although we did not attempt to sample Lake Michigan as part of this effort, we believe it to still be common along the shoreline because it was common in collections we made in April 1992 along Lake Michigan near Winnetka. We also did not visit the localities from the Ohio River basin that dates back to 1900 and before. However, we did visit all five Mississippi River basin historical localities (Stations 51, 52, 53, 55, and 56) and found it at four of the five locations. Even though it appears to be holding its own in extreme northwestern Illinois, it might be appropriate to list the inland population as threatened because of its restriction to such a small number of streams.

Campostoma oligolepi

Two historical localities (St 43 and 45) were sampled and largescale stoneroller was found at both. A considerable number of samples still need to be processed and other specimens of this species may be found.

OTHER LISTED OR UNUSUAL SPECIES

The only other listed species encountered was Iowa darter (Etheotoma exile). It was found at the following stations:

<u>Station</u>	<u>No. of Specimens</u>
9	7
10	3
21	8

Mississippi Silvery minnow (Hybognathus nuchalis) was found at two stations, 52 and 53. It was common (18 specimens) in the Little Menominee River (Station 52) and abundant (100) in the Sinsinawa River (Station 53). Though common in portions of southern Illinois, this species is very sporadic in its occurrence in northern Illinois. Mud darter (Etheostoma aspergene) was also common in the Sinsinawa River (20 specimens collected). Smith (1979) did not report mud darter from Jo Daviess Co.

TABLE 1.SAMPLING LOCATIONS

1. Tyler Creek at Big Timber Rd, 2 mi SE of Gilberts, Kane Co
2. Tyler Creek at McCormick Rd, Kane Co
- 3.* Tyler Creek at Big Timber Rd, 1.5 mi SW of Gilberts, Kane Co
4. Tyler Creek at Highland Av, Kane Co
- 5.* S. Br. Coon Creek, New Lebanon Rd at New Lebanon, DeKalb Co
- 6.* Coon Creek, 5 mi S of Marengo at Coon Creek Rd, McHenry Co
- 7.* Dean Creek, 0.5 mi S of Huntley at Rt.47, McHenry Co
- 8.* Kishwaukee River, 4 mi S of Woodstock at Rt 47, McHenry Co
9. Trib to Kishwaukee R, 3 mi S of Woodstock at Pleasant Valley Rd, McHenry Co
10. Trib to Kishwaukee R, 3 mi S of Woodstock at Rt.47, McHenry Co
11. N. Br. Kishwaukee R, 5 mi WSW of Woodstock at Collins Rd, McHenry Co
- 12.* N. Br. Kishwaukee R, 5 mi W of Woodstock at Kishwaukee Valley Rd, McHenry Co
- 13.* N. Br. Kishwaukee R, 6 mi NW of Woodstock at Rt 14, McHenry Co
14. Piskasaw Ck, 4 mi SW of Havard at Streit Rd, McHenry Co
- 15.* L Mosquito Ck, 5 mi NW of Belvidere at Spring Creek Rd, Boone Co
16. Mosquito Ck, 5 mi NW of Belvidere at Olson Rd, Boone Co
17. Trib to Mosquito Ck, 5 mi NW of Belvidere at Gustafson Rd, Boone Co
- 18.* N Kinnikinnick Ck, 6 mi NNW of Caledonia at Free Church Rd, Boone Co
- 19.* N Kinnikinnick Ck, 1.5 mi NE of Roscoe at Love Rd, Boone Co
20. N Kinnikinnick Ck, 1 mi N of Roscoe at Willowbrook Rd, Boone Co
21. Trib to Raccoon Ck, 3 mi NW of Rockton at Yale Bridge Rd, Winnebago Co
- 22.* N. Br. Otter Ck, 3.5 mi NW of Durand at Rock Grove Rd, Winnebago Co
23. N. Br. Otter Ck, 2 mi N of Lake Summerset at Hartman Rd, Winnebago/Stephenson Co line
- 24.* N. Br. Otter Ck, 4.5 mi NNE of Davis at Walnut Grove Rd, Stephenson Co
25. N. Br. Otter Ck, 1.5 mi N of Davis at Davis Rd, Stephenson Co
26. S. Br. Otter Ck, 3.5 mi NNE of Davis at Felts Rd, Stephenson Co
27. S. Br. Otter Ck, 0.2 mi downstream of L. Summerset dam at Best Rd, Winnebago Co
28. E. Br. Rock Run, 2 mi NW of Davis at Pleasant View Rd, Stephenson Co
29. Rock Run, 1 mi NNE of Rock City at Eggert Rd, Stephenson Co
- 30.* Rock Run, 3 mi SW of Davis at Farm School Rd, Stephenson Co
31. Brown Creek, 3 mi S of Rock City at Brick School Rd, Stephenson Co
32. Pink Creek, 3 mi NW of Pecatonica at Irish Grove Rd, Stephenson Co
- 33.* Grove Creek, 2 mi S of Pecatonica at Comley Rd, Winnebago Co
34. Poplar Creek, 5 mi E of Elgin at Rt 58, Cook Co
35. Pond adjacent to Poplar Ck, 4.5 mi E of Elgin along Rt 58, Cook Co
- 36.* Poplar Ck, 3 mi E of Elgin at Rt 58, Cook Co
37. Crane Grove Ck, 3.5 mi S of Freeport at Crane Grove Rd, Stephenson Co
- 38.* Crane Grove Creek, 2 mi S of Freeport at Lamm Rd, Stephenson Co
- 39.* S. Fk. Apple R, 5 mi S of Warren at Rt 78, Jo Daviess Co.
40. Wolf Creek, 2 mi E of Millville at E Canyon Rd, Jo Daviess Co
41. Birch Br., 1 mi E of Millville at E Canyon Rd, Jo Daviess Co
42. Clear Ck, 0.2 mi E of Millville at E Canyon Rd, Jo Daviess Co
- 43.* S. Fk. Apple R, in Apple R Canyon State Park at E Canyon Rd, Jo Daviess Co

- 44.* Apple R, 2 mi S of Apple River at N Broadway Rd, Jo Daviess Co
- 45.* Hells Br, 2 mi E of Schapville at E Schapville Rd, Jo Daviess Co
- 46.* Mill Ck, 3 mi NW of Woodbine at N Grebner Rd, Jo Daviess Co
- 47.* Apple R, 2 mi NW of Woodbine at N Grebner Rd, Jo Daviess Co
48. Little Rush Ck, 3 mi ESE of Elizabeth at E Bethel Rd, Jo Daviess Co
49. Rush Ck, 5 mi ESE of Elizabeth at E Bethel Rd, Jo Daviess Co
- 50.* Rush Ck, 5 mi SE of Elizabeth at E Skene Rd, Jo Daviess Co
- 51.* Menominee R, 3 mi ENE of E Dubuque at N Tranel Rd, Jo Daviess Co
- 52.* Little Menominee R, 3 mi S of Menominee at Rt 20, Jo Daviess Co
- 53* Sinsinawa R, 4 mi NW of Galena at Rt 20, Jo Daviess Co
- 54.* Plum R, 1 mi SE of Elmville at S Elmville Rd, Jo Daviess Co
- 55.* Plum R, 5 mi NW of Mt. Carroll at Davis Rd, Carroll Co
- 56.* Plum R, 2 mi E of Savanna at Rt 52, Carroll Co
- 57* Carroll Ck, 4 mi W of Mount Carroll at Scenic Georgetown Rd, Carroll Co
58. Pope Ck, 2 mi S of Woodhull at 700 E, Carroll Co

* Historical Locality