

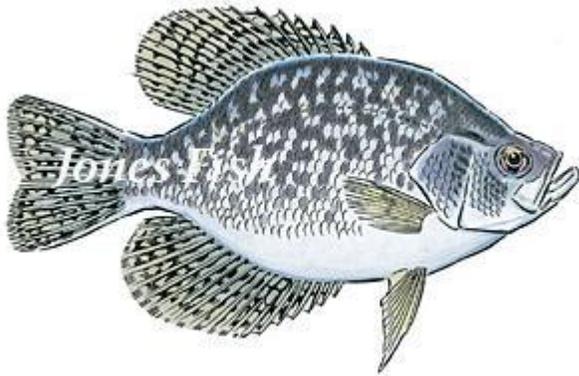
Centerville Mills Park

Paterek Lake

Fish Identification

Black Crappie

Pomoxis nigromaculatus



Adult Size: Typically 5-12 inches, can reach 18 inches. Usually weighs up to about 1 lb but can occasionally exceed 3 lbs.

Typical Foods: Planktonic crustaceans, aquatic insects, and small fish.

Black crappie closely resemble white crappie, but have deeper bodies. Furthermore, their head, back, and sides are mottled with dusky or black blotches. These blotches do not form vertical bars as on white crappie. The most reliable characteristic, however, is that black crappie have seven or eight dorsal spines compared to the five or six of a white crappie. The dorsal fin is also set further forward on the body of a black crappie than it is on a white crappie.

Bluegill Sunfish

Lepomis macrochirus



Adult Size: Typically 6-10 inches, but can reach 12 inches. Usually weighs less than one pound but can reach 2 pounds.

Typical Foods: Zooplankton, insects, and other invertebrates.

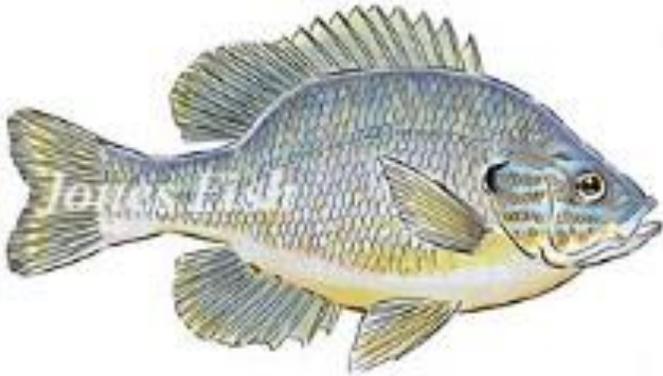
A deep slab-sided fish with a small mouth and a long pointed pectoral fin. They have 5-9 dark bars on their side and an overall dark green body color. When caught in muddy water they can appear more silver in overall coloration. The ear flap (opercle) is always black with out a red tip like redear sunfish. Bluegill sunfish often have a black blotch near the back of the soft dorsal and anal fins. They have blue along the bottom edge of their jaw line and rear bottom edge of their gill covers. They do not have any wavy blue lines on the cheek like pumpkinseed, green, and longear sunfishes. Their belly is white in young, yellow in females, and orange to a rusty red in breeding males.

Hybrid Bluegill

(*Lepomis cyanellus* x *Lepomis macrochirus*),

A cross between a green sunfish and a bluegill.

Adult Size: Typically 3-8 inches
Typical Foods: same as Bluegill



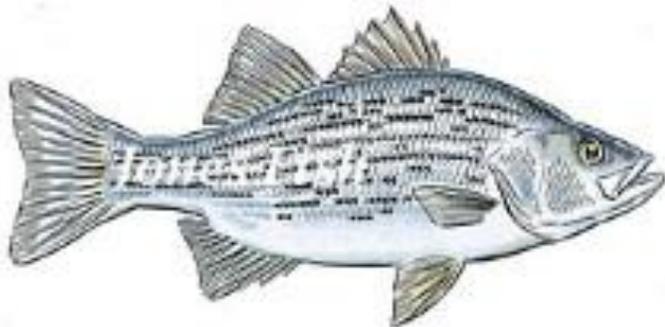
Hybrid Striped Bass

Morone saxatilis x *M. chrysops*

Adult Size: Typically 12-22 inches, can reach over 30 inches. Usually weighs 1-5 pounds, can reach 18 pounds.

Typical Foods: Adults feed primarily on fish often gizzard shad in reservoirs. Young feed on larval insects, worms, and larval fish.

Hybrid striped bass are a silver deep-bodied fish, similar to white bass. Stripes along the sides and back are distinct, usually broken, with several extending to the tail. Teeth on the base of the tongue are arranged in two parallel patches.



Largemouth Bass

Micropterus salmoides salmoides



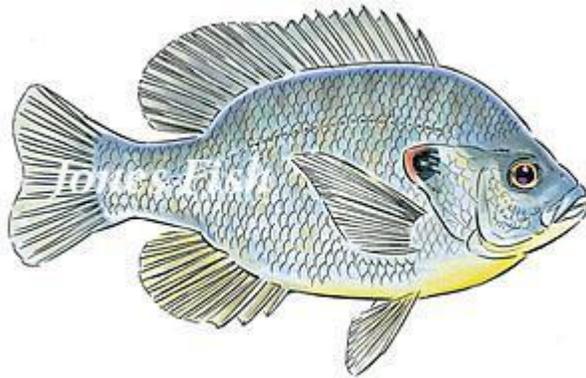
Adult Size: Typically 15-18 inches, can reach 26 inches. Usually weigh 1-5 pounds, can reach 13 pounds in Ohio.

Typical Foods: Crayfish, frogs, large insects, and other fish.

Largemouth bass have a very large mouth that extends beyond the rear edge of the eye when it is closed. This characteristic distinguishes it from the smallmouth and spotted bass where the back of the mouth does not extend past the eye. Young largemouth bass do not have an orange tail like juvenile smallmouth and spotted bass. The largemouth also has a black stripe that extends down the side of the body. Spotted bass also have a dark lateral stripe but differ from the largemouth in having rows of dark spots below the lateral stripe and a tooth patch on their tongue.

Redear Sunfish

Lepomis microlophus



Adult Size: Typically 8-10 inches, can reach 15 inches. Usually weigh 1 pound or less, can reach 3.5 pounds.

Typical Foods: Preferred diet is snails but will eat a wide variety of aquatic and terrestrial insects as well.

Redear sunfish are a deep, slab-sided fish similar to the bluegill sunfish, except the ear flap (opercle) is black with a red or orange spot at the rear edge. Pumpkinseed and northern longear sunfish also have this red tip but in addition they have many wavy blue lines on the cheek. Redear sunfish do not have distinct vertical bars like bluegill sunfish, when they are present they are broken and blotchy. Redear Sunfish also lack the black blotches at the rear base of the dorsal and anal fins that bluegill sunfish have.

Yellow Perch
Perca flavescens



Adult Size: Typically 5-12 inches, can reach 16 inches. Usually weigh 0.25-1 pound, can reach a little over 2 pounds.

Typical Foods: Aquatic insects, larger invertebrates, and small fishes.

Yellow perch are golden yellow to brassy green with six to eight dark vertical bars and a white to yellow belly. Yellow perch do not have large canine teeth like the closely related walleye or sauger. Their pelvic and anal fins usually have some orange coloration and the first dorsal fin has a dark blotch near the rear of the fin. All other fins are relatively clear with no distinct markings.

Grass Carp
Ctenopharyngodon idella
(Introduced species)



Other Names: White Amur

Adult Size: Typically 36-48 inches, can reach 60 inches or more. Usually weigh 30-50 pounds, can reach over 100 pounds.

Typical Foods: Will eat a variety of aquatic and flooded terrestrial plants, and fruits and berries that fall in the water. This species does not eat algae.

The grass carp is a long slender member of the minnow family. It resembles the common carp because of its large size and scales. Grass carp differ from the common carp with the lack of a sucker-like mouth, and the absence of barbels on the mouth. Furthermore, grass carp are usually silvery-gray, rather than the brownish-yellow of the common carp.

Channel Catfish
Ictalurus punctatus



Adult Size: Typically 15-25 inches, can reach over 40 inches. Usually weighs 2-10 pounds, can reach 37 pounds.

Typical Foods: They are omnivorous and will eat a wide variety of items including insect larvae, crayfish, mollusks, fish (dead or alive), and even some types of fruits and berries.

The channel catfish, like other catfish, has no scales, a single bony spine in each pectoral fin and the dorsal fin, and 8 barbels around the mouth. They have a deeply forked tail and the upper jaw is longer than the lower jaw. The dorsal and pectoral spines are sharp and deeply serrated, and the anal fin is curved and has between 24 and 30 rays. The body can be blue, gray, silver, or almost black. Their belly is usually white or cream colored. Small individuals are usually more silver in color and often have many black spots on their sides. Some anglers mistakenly call large channel catfish with few or no spots blue catfish, but the blue catfish has an anal fin with a straight edge and greater than 30 rays.

Blue Catfish
Ictalurus furcatus



Adult Size: In Ohio typically reach 30-40 inches, can reach over 60 inches. Usually weigh 20-40 pounds, largest recorded Ohio specimen weighed 96 pounds. Known to reach over 120 pounds and nearly 6 feet in length elsewhere.

Typical Foods: Primarily feeds on other fish but will eat a wide variety of items.

Blue catfish have a deeply forked tail and light gray or silver colored body. They get their name from the blue overcast to their body most obvious on the top of their head and down their back. Blue catfish differ from the very similar channel catfish by having a longer anal fin (30-36 rays compared to 24-30 on a channel catfish) with a straight bottom edge, as opposed to a rounded bottom edge. Also, blue catfish never have black spots on their body like those on young channel catfish.