

Fishes of Great Smoky Mountains National Park



Created by:

2005 Fisheries Staff

Michelle Hall, Rachael Hallman, Tyson Glasser, John Mohan, Casey Munn, Ryan Hintz, Kevin Poole, Jonathan "Jr." Biddle, and Brian Rau

Revised by: 2012 Fisheries Staff Jordan Moses & Cody Schrader

Symbols accompanying fish:



Likely to see snorkeling



Good to eat



Game fish



Non-Native



Federally
Endangered/Threatened
Species

***Fish are sorted by families**



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Antherinidae
- Common Name – Brook Silverside
- Scientific Name – *Labidesthes sicculus*
- Coloration – Translucent green to pallid
- Identifying Characteristics – Jaws pointed, beaklike, maxilla not reaching eye; separate dorsal fins; origin of 1st dorsal fin posterior to anal fin origin; anal fin long with 1 spine; silvery lateral stripe
- Average Size – 0.25 to 2.5 in.
- Park Locations – lower Abrams Creek
- Spawning Period – June through August
- Interesting Fact – Observed to often skip along the surface of the water and glide through the air when disturbed or spawning. Of the 160 species only 3 occur in freshwater.



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Catostomidae
- Common Name – Golden Redhorse
- Scientific Name – *Moxostoma erythrurum*
- Coloration – Sides golden to bronze; dorsal and caudal fins grayish olive; other fins pale orange
- Identifying Characteristics – Mouth ventral; lips fleshy, plicate; lower lip broadly V shaped
- Average Size – 12 to 20 in.
- Park Locations – Middle Prong of the Little Pigeon River at Park boundary, Abrams Creek one mile above mouth, Little Tennessee River at Calderwood, Twentymile Creek above the embayment and mouth, Deep Creek, Oconaluftee River, and Tuckasegee River at mouth of Noland Creek.
- Spawning Period – April to early May
- Interesting Fact – I am commonly seen in large congregations as I spawn in the spring. This holds true for most species in the genus *Moxostoma*.



Photo Courtesy of Conservation Fisheries Inc.



- Family – Catostomidae
- Common Name – Black Redhorse
- Scientific Name – *Moxostoma duquesnei*
- Coloration – Olive brown back; silvery sides; yellow to reddish-orange fins; dark scale edges
- Identifying Characteristics – Long rounded snout which overhangs inferior mouth; narrow upper lip and thick, slightly concave lower lip
- Average Size – 10 to 15 in.
- Park Locations – Middle Prong of the Little Pigeon River, Webb Creek, Abrams Creek, Twentymile Creek, Forney Creek, Deep Creek, Oconaluftee River, Raven Fork, Noland Creek, Tuckasegee River, Little River and Hazel Creek at 1/2 mile above the embayment
- Spawning Period – April to May
- Interesting Fact – Individuals of my species are distinguished by their lip patterns



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press

- Family – Catostomidae
- Common Name – Northern Hogsucker
- Scientific Name – *Hypentelium nigricans*
- Local Names – Box head & Vacuum lips
- Coloration – Pale tan to light brown background with 3-4 dark charcoal saddles extending obliquely forward onto sides; light brown to bright orange fins.
- Identifying Characteristics – Large head, concave between eyes; long snout; ventral mouth
- Average Size – 10 to 17 in.
- Park Locations – Widespread and common in all streams of the Park, reaching elevations of up to 2800 ft.
- Spawning Period – March to April
- Interesting Fact – Strong hogsucker populations signal potentially good bass-fishing streams.



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Catostomidae
- Common Name – River Redhorse
- Scientific Name – *Moxostoma carinatum*
- Coloration – Pale to brassy-orange; median fins reddish-olive; paired fins pale red
- Identifying Characteristics – Blunt snout slightly overhanging mouth; lips fleshy and plicate; rear edge of lower lip almost straight
- Average Size – 12 to 28 in.
- Park Locations – Little Tennessee River, Twentymile Creek embayment, Abrams Creek 1/2 mile above embayment, and Deep Creek
- Spawning Period – April
- Interesting Fact – Feed on small bivalve mollusk which I crush with my heavy pharyngeal teeth



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Catostomidae
- Common Name – Shorthead Redhorse
- Scientific Name – *Moxostoma macrolepidotum*
- Coloration – Olive green to pale yellow; red caudal fin; red margins on dorsal fin
- Identifying Characteristics – Distinguished from other suckers by much larger scales
- Average Size – 16 to 18 in.
- Park Locations – Little Tennessee River at Calderwood, Twentymile Creek embayment, and Forney Creek
- Spawning Period – Late April to May
- Interesting Fact – Sensitive to and easily killed by excessive siltation and other forms of pollution.



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Catostomidae
- Common Name – White Sucker
- Scientific Name – *Catostomus commersoni*
- Local Names – Chalk eye
- Coloration – Mottled olive to pinkish tan or golden brown
- Identifying Characteristics – Ventral Mouth; lips thick with many papillae; crowded anterior scales
- Average Size – 6 to 17 in.
- Park Locations – Anthony Creek, Abrams Creek, Deep Creek, Cataloochee Creek and unnamed tributaries, Little River, Oconaluftee River, and Twentymile Creek
- Spawning Period – Early spring
- Interesting Fact – Common food source for Native Americans in this area



Photo Courtesy of Brian James TWRA



- Family – Centrarchidae
- Common Name – Bluegill Sunfish
- Scientific Name – *Lepomis macrochirus*
- Local Names – Bream, Sunfish, Pan fish, Sun perch
- Coloration – Light blue to dark gray on back and sides
- Identifying Characteristics – Black blotch near middle of soft dorsal fin posterior rays; terminal mouth reaching front edge of eye; broad, moderately long earflap; pectoral fin long and pointed
- Average Size – 6 to 10 in.
- Park Locations – Abrams Creek, Little Tennessee River, Oconaluftee River, Twentymile Creek embayment, Hazel Creek at Proctor House, Noland Creek embayment, and Deep Creek
- Spawning Period – April to September
- Interesting Fact – The most important family of North American freshwater fishes due to the highly esteemed sporting and edible qualities of species within this family



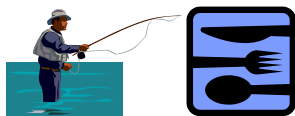
Photo Courtesy of Brian James TWRA



- Family – Centrarchidae
- Common Name – Longear Sunfish
- Scientific Name – *Lepomis megalotis*
- Local Names – Bream, Long-ears, Sunfish
- Coloration – Olive brown on back and sides with metallic blue spots; cheek reddish with wavy blue-green stripes
- Identifying Characteristics – Elongate earflap, wider than eye, with red or white edge
- Average Size – 5 to 7 in.
- Park Locations – Middle Prong of the Little Pigeon River at the Park boundary. Lower Abrams Creek at the embayment, and Abrams Creek one mile above the mouth
- Spawning Period – March to August
- Interesting Fact – Social nesters, large congregations of nest may occur during breeding season



Photo Courtesy of Brian James TWRA



- Family – Centrarchidae
- Common Name – Rock Bass
- Scientific Name – *Ambloplites rupestris*
- Local Names – Redeye
- Coloration – Olive to brown with darker brown mottling
- Identifying Characteristics – Large, red eye; mouth reaches or goes beyond middle of eye
- Average Size – 3.5 to 8.5 in.
- Park Locations – Middle Prong and West Prong of the Little Pigeon River, Dudley Creek, Forney Creek, Oconaluftee River, Noland Creek, Abrams Creek, Tabcat Creek, Shop Creek, Little River, Deep Creek, Hazel Creek, Panther Creek, Straight Fork and Raven Fork
- Spawning Period – April to early June
- Interesting Fact – The name Rock bass refers to the use of rocks as cover by the species



Photo Courtesy of Brian James TWRA



- Family – Centrarchidae
- Common Name – Green Sunfish
- Scientific Name – *Lepomis cyanellus*
- Local Names – Bream, Sunfish, Panfish
- Coloration – Brownish green with small metallic blue spots anteriorly and black spots posteriorly
- Identifying Characteristics – Black blotch on posterior base of soft dorsal and anal fins; ear flap not elongate with light margin
- Average Size – 4 to 8 in.
- Park Locations – Tabcat and Shop Creeks above embayments, and Abrams Creek embayment
- Spawning Period – May to June
- Interesting Fact – Able to hybridize with at least seven other species in the genus *Lepomis*



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Centrarchidae
- Common Name – Redbreast Sunfish
- Scientific Name – *Lepomis auritus*
- Local Names – Stumpknocker, Shellcracker, Robin, Yellowbelly perch
- Coloration – Green back with green stripes along sides; reddish orange belly
- Identifying Characteristics – Black earflap with no light margin; short rounded pectoral fins
- Average Size – 6 to 8 in.
- Park Locations – Tabcat Creek, Shop Creek, and Abrams Creek
- Spawning Period – June
- Interesting Fact – About 19,000 Redbreast Sunfish were stocked in the Clinch River in 1969, after the fish kill 1967



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Centrarchidae
- Common Name – White Bass
- Scientific Name – *Morone chrysops*
- Local Names – Stripe
- Coloration – Bluish grey back and silvery sides with 6-9 dark narrow stripes
- Identifying Characteristics – lateral tooth patch on edge and base of tongue; separate dorsal fins; 2nd anal fin spine half the length of 3rd
- Average Size – 10 to 15 in
- Park Locations – Abrams Creek at the embayment
- Spawning Period – March to April
- Interesting Fact – White bass have one tooth patch on their tongue while Striped bass have two



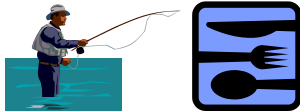
Photo Courtesy of Brian James TWRA



- Family – Centrarchidae
- Common Name – Smallmouth Bass
- Scientific Name – *Micropterus dolomieu*
- Local Names – Smally, Black Bass, Bronzeback
- Coloration – Bronze to olive green with irregular black spots
- Identifying Characteristics – Mouth reaches eye; bases of soft dorsal and anal fins scaled
- Average Size – 15 to 29 in.
- Park Locations – West and Middle Prong of the Little Pigeon River, Dudley Creek, Fighting Creek, Webb Creek, Laurel Creek, Abrams Creek, Little Tennessee River, Oconaluftee River, Raven Fork, Roaring Fork, Noland Creek, Tuckasegee River, Hazel Creek, Panther Creek and Deep Creek
- Spawning Period – April to May
- Interesting Fact – More aggressive feeder than the largemouth bass



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Centrarchidae
- Common Name – Warmouth
- Scientific Name – *Lepomis gulosus*
- Local Names – Goggle-eye
- Coloration – Yellow to brown with dark blotches
- Identifying Characteristics – Reddish eyes; 3-4 radiating lines extending to edge of opercle
- Average Size – 6 to 8 in.
- Park Locations – Lower Abrams Creek at the embayment
- Spawning Period – May to June
- Interesting Fact – During breeding the female of this species circles the nest and periodically thumps the male on his side while simultaneously extruding eggs. It is assumed that he deposits milt at this time also

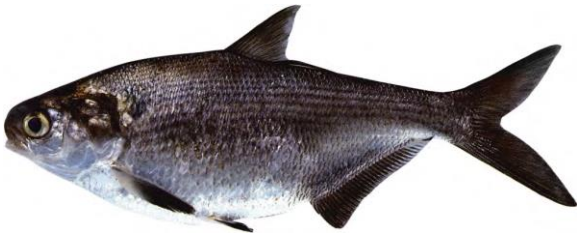


Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Clupeidae
- Common Name – Gizzard Shad
- Scientific Name – *Dorosoma cepedianum*
- Coloration – Silver to tin
- Identifying Characteristics – Dusky humeral spot; small inferior mouth; long anal fin; last dorsal fin ray elongate and filamentous
- Average Size – 7.9 to 12 in.
- Park Locations – Lower Abrams Creek and Abrams Creek embayment
- Spawning Period – April to June
- Interesting Fact – Travels in large schools and spawn mostly at night



Photo Courtesy of Conservation Fisheries Inc.



- Family – Cottidae
- Common Name – Banded Sculpin
- Scientific Name – *Cottus carolinae*
- Local Names – Mumblehead
- Coloration – Light brown with intense dorsal saddles
- Identifying Characteristics – Body less robust than Mottled Sculpin; long snout; caudal fin has distinct light and dark banding
- Average Size – 2.5 to 5.8 in.
- Park Locations – Abrams Creek, Porter's Creek, an unnamed tributary to Webb Creek, Little River and Middle Prong of the Little Pigeon River
- Spawning Period – February to April
- Interesting Fact – Produces a slimy discharge as a defense mechanism



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Cottidae
- Common Name – Mottled Sculpin
- Scientific Name – *Cottus bairdi*
- Local Names – Mumblehead
- Coloration – Brown and golden tan
- Identifying Characteristics – Sometimes 2 dark saddles beneath 2nd dorsal fin; dorsal fin deeply notched
- Average Size – 1.7 to 3.1 in.
- Park Locations – Found in all river systems except Middle Prong of the Little Pigeon River or Cataloochee Creek
- Spawning Period – February to April
- Interesting Fact – Produces a slimy discharge as a defense mechanism



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Cyprinidae
- Common Name – Western Blacknose Dace
- Scientific Name – *Rhinichthys obtusus*
- Coloration – Dark brown to grey back grading to silver on lower sides and belly;
- Identifying Characteristics – Dark mid-lateral stripe extends from snout to caudal fin base; small, subterminal mouth; barbells present
- Average Size – 1.6 to 2.8 in.
- Park Locations – Upper Abrams Creek, lower portions of the Little River, and the Little Pigeon River systems lower than 4000 feet
- Spawning Period – April to July
- Interesting Fact – The orange signifies breeding colors



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Cyprinidae
- Common Name – Rosyside Dace
- Scientific Name – *Clinostomus funduloides*
- Coloration – Sides rosy with dusky mid-lateral stripe and scattered dark scales
- Identifying Characteristics – Large mouth extending to eye; protruding lower jaw; tubercles in breeding males
- Average Size – 1.9 to 3.2 in.
- Park Locations – Anthony Creek, Abrams Creek, Deep Creek, Tabcat Creek, Hazel Creek, Kephart Prong, Bradely Fork, Straight Fork and some parts of the Oconaluftee River
- Spawning Period – April to June
- Interesting Fact – Commonly observed in early summer as large congregations of “red minnows” schooling



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Cyprinidae
- Common Name – Bigeye Chub
- Scientific Name – *Hybopsis amblops*
- Coloration – Silvery with a prominent dusky mid-lateral stripe extending from snout to caudal fin base
- Identifying Characteristics – Blunt, rounded snout projecting beyond upper lip; eye slightly longer than snout; barbells present
- Average Size – 1.8 to 2.6 in.
- Park Locations – Lower Abrams Creek, Roaring Fork, Tabcat Creek, Little River at Park boundary, and Little River near Elkmont
- Spawning Period – April to June
- Interesting Fact – Named after large oval eye



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Cyprinidae
- Common Name – Tennessee Dace
- Scientific Name – *Phoxinus tennesseensis*
- Coloration – Males scarlet on belly and lower sides; yellow pectoral, pelvic, and anal fins
- Identifying Characteristics – Two dark parallel lateral stripes
- Average Size – 2 to 3 in.
- Park Locations – Tabcat Creek near Calderwood and a tributary to Cosby Creek
- Spawning Period – Late spring
- Interesting Fact – The red coloration can be extremely ephemeral, changing from moment to moment with the "mood" of the fish, and appears to be under neural-hormonal control



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Cyprinidae
- Common Name – Longnose Dace
- Scientific Name – ***Rhinichthys cataractae***
- Local Names – Skin taster
- Coloration – Reddish brown to dark olive on back and upper side
- Identifying Characteristics – Flat head; long snout overhanging mouth; small ventral barbells present; long, deep caudal peduncle
- Average Size – 4 to 6 in.
- Park Locations – Little River, Tennessee River, and Oconaluftee River systems up to elevations of 3200 ft.
- Spawning Period – Early spring to early summer
- Interesting Fact – Has well developed taste buds on snout, lips, lower head, and membranes on lower fins.



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press

- Family – Cyprinidae
- Common Name – Creek Chub
- Scientific Name – ***Semotilus atromaculatus***
- Coloration – Dark grey to brown on back; cream colored sides with a dark lateral stripe ending in a caudal spot
- Identifying Characteristics – Dark spot at anterior base of dorsal fin; large mouth; small barbells present
- Average Size – 3.2 to 7.9 in.
- Park Locations – Anthony Creek, Mill Creek, Abrams Creek, Deep Creek, Little River, Noland Creek, Tabcat Creek, Shop Creek, Parson's Branch, Dudley Creek, Rowan's Creek, and the Oconaluftee River
- Spawning Period – March to May
- Interesting Fact – Each female produces 1,115 to 7,539 eggs



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Cyprinidae
- Common Name – Flame Chub
- Scientific Name – ***Hemitremia flammea***
- Coloration – Gold along dorsal side; orange along ventral side; orange dot on anterior of dorsal fin base
- Identifying Characteristics – Dusky mid-lateral stripe extending from snout to caudal spot; small oblique mouth extending to front of eye
- Average Size – 1.6 to 2.4 in.
- Park Locations – Abrams Creek in the Cades Cove area and Abrams Creek from the lowest Loop Road to Hyatt Lane
- Spawning Period – January to June
- Interesting Fact – A Tennessee state species of special concern



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Cyprinidae
- Common Name – Spotfin Chub
- Scientific Name – ***Erimonax monachus***
- Local Names – Emerald Chub
- Coloration – Top of body is gray or green with silvery sides; no blotches or speckles
- Identifying Characteristics – Large, dark caudal spot; dark spot on posterior dorsal fin rays
- Average Size – 2.1 to 3.5 in.
- Park Locations – Abrams Creek
- Spawning Period – May to August
- Interesting Fact – One male may spawn with more than one female at a time in a crevice; Federally Threatened



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Cyprinidae
- Common Name – River Chub
- Scientific Name – ***Nocomis micropogon***
- Local Names – Horny-head
- Coloration – Dark olive on top to dusky yellow on bottom; pinkish purple coloration during breeding season
- Identifying Characteristics – Breeding males have tubercles on snout tip and between nostrils; breast unscaled
- Average Size – 4.5 to 7.1 in.
- Park Locations – Found in all river systems except the Pigeon River
- Spawning Period – Late spring
- Interesting Fact – Has a maximum lifespan of 5 years



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Cyprinidae
- Common Name – Central Stoneroller
- Scientific Name – ***Campostoma anomalum***
- Coloration – Sides randomly marked with dark scales; breeding males have orange and black band in dorsal fin
- Identifying Characteristics – Breeding males have tubercles on head, body, and median fins; fleshy upper lip; lower jaw with cartilaginous ridge and no barbels
- Average Size – 2.4 to 5.9 in.
- Park Locations – Found in all streams up to elevations of 3200 ft.
- Spawning Period – April to May
- Interesting Fact – Favorite forage fish of Brown Trout and Smallmouth Bass



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Cyprinidae
- Common Name – Fatlips Minnow
- Scientific Name – ***Phenacobius crassilabrum***
- Local Names – Sucker-mouth minnow
- Coloration – Olive or brown head and body; thin gold stripe on side of body; caudal, dorsal, and pectoral fins olive; anal and pelvic fins white;
- Identifying Characteristics – Small, round eye; long, round snout; bumpy lips; caudal fin base has pale area above and below caudal spot
- Average Size – 2.2 to 3.4 in.
- Park Locations – Oconaluftee River
- Spawning Period – April through June
- Interesting Fact – Endemic to the Blue Ridge and its fringes in the upper Tennessee drainage of Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Cyprinidae
- Common Name – Saffron Shiner
- Scientific Name – ***Notropis rubicroceus***
- Coloration – Dark side stripe on back half of body; olive back; silver sides; white belly; fins pale except for black mark on caudal fin
- Identifying Characteristics – Elongate spot at base of caudal fin
- Average Size – 1.5 to 2.4 in.
- Park Locations – Dudley Creek, West and Middle Prong of the Little Pigeon River, Fighting Creek, Webb Creek, Little River, Cosby Creek, Porters Creek, an unnamed tributary to Webb Creek, and Mill Creek
- Spawning Period – May to July
- Interesting Fact – During breeding season lips look bright red



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Cyprinidae
- Common Name – Rosyface Shiner
- Scientific Name – ***Notropis rubellus***
- Coloration – Dusky orange lateral stripe; darker posteriorly; breeding males reddish on head and fin bases
- Identifying Characteristics – dark-edged lateral line pores; dorsal fin origin behind pelvic fin insertion
- Average Size – 1.9 to 2.7 in.
- Park Locations – Twentymile Creek embayment
- Spawning Period – May to June
- Interesting Fact – Breeding males have a red color behind the cheek and along the lower back half of their body



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Cyprinidae
- Common Name – Fathead Minnow
- Scientific Name – ***Pimephales promelas***
- Local Names – Tuffie
- Coloration – Dark caudal spot; blotch on anterior portion of dorsal fin
- Identifying Characteristics – Stout, chubby body; blunt snout; mouth nearly terminal; 1st dorsal fin ray is short, stout, separated by a membrane
- Average Size – 3 to 4 in.
- Park Locations – Found mostly in small streams where competition with other species is limited
- Spawning Period – Late spring through midsummer
- Interesting Fact – Nests may contain up to 12,000 eggs and females may spawn as many as 12 times in a single summer



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Cyprinidae
- Common Name – Mirror Shiner
- Scientific Name – ***Notropis spectrunculus***
- Coloration – Silver sides; grey back; silver-white belly; males have iridescent purple color on body
- Identifying Characteristics – Black wedge-shaped spot at base of caudal fin
- Average Size – 2 to 3.2 in.
- Park Locations – Forney Creek, Deep Creek, Oconaluftee River, Raven Fork, Noland Creek, and Tuckasegee River
- Spawning Period – May through June
- Interesting Fact – I live in generally cool, clear, or cold creeks to medium sized streams of moderate high gradient



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Cyprinidae
- Common Name – Telescope Shiner
- Scientific Name – ***Notropis telescopus***
- Coloration – Dark olive back; silver side; silver-white belly; black side stripe
- Identifying Characteristics – Large eye; slightly rounded snout; large, terminal mouth; dorsal fin origin above pelvic fin base
- Average Size – 2.5 to 4.0 in.
- Park Locations – Middle and West Prong of the Little Pigeon, Oconaluftee, Tuckasegee, and Little River, Webb Creek, Deep Creek, Cosby Creek, Abrams Creek, an unnamed tributary to Webb Creek, Tabcat Creek, Shop Creek, Forney Creek, Panther Creek, Raven Fork and Roaring Fork
- Spawning Period – May to June
- Interesting Fact – Found in backwaters, flowing pools, and runs that have hard or silty substrates



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Cyprinidae
- Common Name – Striped Shiner
- Scientific Name – ***Luxilus chrysocephalus***
- Coloration – Few dark crescents on sides; olive with silver sides; fins pinkish
- Identifying Characteristics – Deep compressed body; broad dusky predorsal stripe
- Average Size – 2.5 to 3.9 in.
- Park Locations – Abrams Creek
- Spawning Period – May to June
- Interesting Fact – Dominant food items are aquatic and terrestrial insects. Other food items include small crayfishes, fish eggs, small fishes, algae, and detritus.



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Cyprinidae
- Common Name – Silver Shiner
- Scientific Name – ***Notropis photogenis***
- Coloration – Gray back; iridescent gold or blue lateral stripe; silver lower sides
- Identifying Characteristics – Pair of large, dark crescents present between the nostrils
- Average Size – 2.5 to 3.7 in.
- Park Locations – Abrams Creek, Little River, and in the Little Pigeon River Systems
- Spawning Period – May to June
- Interesting Fact – Schools feed near the surface and occasionally jump from the water in chase of flying insects



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Cyprinidae
- Common Name – Tennessee Shiner
- Scientific Name – ***Notropis leuciodus***
- Coloration – Olive back; silver sides; white belly; black markings on caudal fin base
- Identifying Characteristics – Distinct gold stripe above dark lateral stripe; dorsal fin origin above back half of pelvic fin base
- Average Size – 1.5 to 2.3 in.
- Park Locations – found in all river systems except the Pigeon River systems, up to elevations of about 2,200 feet
- Spawning Period – mid-May to late-June
- Interesting Fact – Fully mature at 1 to 2 years of age



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Ictaluridae
- Common Name – Yellow Bullhead
- Scientific Name – ***Ameiurus natalis***
- Local Names – Yellow cat, Creek cat, White-whiskered bullhead, Polliwog
- Coloration – yellowish brown back; pale yellow to white underside; dusky fins
- Identifying Characteristics – Black margins on anal and caudal fins; white chin barbels
- Average Size – 4.7 to 11.8
- Park Locations – Lower Abrams Creek, Tabcat Creek at the embayment, and Abrams Creek at the embayment
- Spawning Period – late-April to June
- Interesting Fact – Has taste buds around mouth and on whiskers



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Cyprinidae
- Common Name – Whitetail Shiner
- Scientific Name – ***Cyprinella galactura***
- Coloration – silvery to bluish gray sides; dark, diffuse lateral stripe on upper side; reddish dorsal and anal fins; black posterior ray membranes
- Identifying Characteristics – White upper and lower caudal fin bases; diamond shaped scales with black edges
- Average Size – 2 to 4 in.
- Park Locations – Common in all park river systems except the Pigeon River tributaries
- Spawning Period – late-May to late-June
- Interesting Fact – Spawn in crevices between rocks



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Cyprinidae
- Common Name – Warpaint Shiner
- Scientific Name – ***Luxilus coccogenis***
- Coloration – Dark bands on dorsal and caudal fins; silvery body
- Identifying Characteristics – Anterior base of dorsal fin red; vertical red line behind eye; edge of gill opening black; reddish upper lip
- Average Size – 2.5 to 3.7 in.
- Park Locations – Found in all river systems except the Pigeon River systems, up to elevations of about 2,200 feet
- Spawning Period – May to June
- Interesting Fact – Commonly caught by fishermen



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Ictaluridae
- Common Name – Smoky Madtom
- Scientific Name – ***Noturus baileyi***
- Local Names – Catminnow
- Coloration – Pale yellow to pink ventral side; brown pigment on dorsal side of body; 4 pale yellow saddles along middle of back; dusky band along adipose fin
- Identifying Characteristics – Caudal fin is joined to adipose fin with a shallow notch between the two; body deepest beneath the dorsal fin
- Average Size – 1.4 to 2.9 in.
- Park Locations – Abrams Creek
- Spawning Period – June and July
- Interesting Fact – Federally Endangered



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Ictaluridae
- Common Name – Yellowfin Madtom
- Scientific Name – ***Noturus flavipinnis***
- Local Names – Catminnow
- Coloration – Yellow back; light belly; 4 dark saddles; fins yellow with dark bands or mottling at the middle and near the edges
- Identifying Characteristics – Adipose fin is nearly separate from the caudal fin; body deepest in front of the dorsal fin
- Average Size – 1.4 to 5.3 in.
- Park Locations – Abrams Creek
- Spawning Period – June and July
- Interesting Fact – Federally Threatened



Photo Courtesy of GRSM



- Family – Percidae
- Common Name – Citico Darter
- Scientific Name – ***Etheostoma sitikuense***
- Local Names – Freckled-face
- Coloration – Light brown underside; dark brown back
- Identifying Characteristics – Dark, horizontal orbital bar; cheek free of markings; breeding males have fleshy knobs on spines of 1st dorsal fin
- Average Size – 1.1 to 2.5 in.
- Park Locations – Abrams Creek
- Spawning Period – April to June
- Interesting Fact – Endemic to the upper Tennessee and middle Cumberland drainages; Federally Endangered



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Percidae
- Common Name – Banded Darter
- Scientific Name – ***Etheostoma zonale***
- Coloration – Cream with dark tan vertical stripes; stripes turn green during breeding
- Identifying Characteristics – Interspaces are narrower than bars; no dark spot on cheek or opercle
- Average Size – 1.6 to 2.4 in.
- Park Locations – Lower Abrams Creek and the Tuckasegee River
- Spawning Period – April to June
- Interesting Fact – Well known for brilliant breeding colors



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Percidae
- Common Name – Fantail Darter
- Scientific Name – ***Etheostoma flabbellare***
- Coloration – Light tan; sides lighter with narrow dark stripes and dusky bars
- Identifying Characteristics – Rounded caudal fin with rows of dark flecks
- Average Size – 1.0 to 3.7 in.
- Park Locations – Found on the Middle and West Prong of the Little Pigeon River, Dudley Creek, Fighting Creek, Webb Creek, Anthony Creek, Mill Creek, and Porter's Creek
- Spawning Period – April to June
- Interesting Fact – Can be found in higher elevations than most darters



Photo Courtesy of Conservation Fisheries Inc.



- Family – Percidae
- Common Name – Greenside Darter
- Scientific Name – ***Etheostoma blennioides***
- Coloration – Pale olive with 6 dark W or V shaped markings along side of body
- Identifying Characteristics – Blunt snout overhanging mouth; nipple-like projection on middle of upper lip
- Average Size – 2.0 to 6.5 in.
- Park Locations – Laurel Creek, Abrams Creek, Deep Creek, Oconaluftee River, Roaring Fork, Raven Fork, Webb Creek, Middle and West Prong of the Little Pigeon River, Bradley Fork, Hazel Creek, Little River, Straight Fork, Cataloochee Creek, Noland Creek, Twentymile Creek, Forney Creek, and Eagle Creek
- Spawning Period – March to May
- Interesting Fact – One of the largest species of Etheostoma



Photo Courtesy of Conservation Fisheries Inc.



- Family – Percidae
- Common Name – Greenfin Darter
- Scientific Name – ***Etheostoma chlorobranchium***
- Coloration – Olive to brown with deep red spots on body and green fins
- Identifying Characteristics – Fine checkered pattern on body; all fins have light margins
- Average Size – 1.8 to 4.3 in.
- Park Locations – Abrams Creek, Forney Creek, Oconaluftee River, Roaring Fork, Raven Fork, Deep Creek, Noland Creek, Tuckasegee River, Porter's Creek, Middle and West Prong of the Little Pigeon River, Hazel Creek, and Eagle Creek
- Spawning Period – Late May to August
- Interesting Fact – Males look as if they were dipped in green paint during breeding season



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Percidae
- Common Name – Gilt Darter
- Scientific Name – ***Percina evides***
- Coloration – Olive to blue-green color with 5 to 8 dark blotches along my back as well as square blotches on my sides. Males get blue-green vertical bands, bright red blotches on their sides, an orange breast, orange top fin and dark blue bottom fins during breeding season
- Identifying Characteristics – Dark vertical sub-orbital bar; short head and snout
- Average Size – 1.3 to 3.7 in.
- Park Locations – Abrams Creek, Forney Creek, Deep Creek, Oconaluftee River, Tuckasegee River, Little River, Noland Creek above the embayment, and Raven Fork
- Spawning Period – April to July
- Interesting Fact – Observed following logperch about as they feed and rushing in to steal food as it is revealed



Photo Courtesy of Conservation Fisheries Inc.



- Family – Percidae
- Common Name – Redline Darter
- Scientific Name – ***Etheostoma rufilineatum***
- Local Names – Roofie
- Coloration – Females are light brown in background color with dark brown horizontal stripes; breeding males are brightly colored with a pale background; both sexes have red spots between the horizontal lines and bright orange/red on cheeks and abdomen
- Identifying Characteristics – Sharply pointed snout; pale hour glass shape at caudal fin base
- Average Size – 1.7 to 3.9 in.
- Park Locations – Middle and West Prong of the Little Pigeon River, Abrams Creek, Roaring Fork, Tabcat Creek, Shop Creek, Little River and Panther Creek above the embayment
- Spawning Period – May to August
- Interesting Fact – Restricted to the Tennessee and Cumberland River drainages



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Percidae
- Common Name – Swannanoa Darter
- Scientific Name – ***Etheostoma swannanoa***
- Local Names – Swanny
- Coloration – Tan to pink background color with 6 dark saddles; row of orange spots on the side
- Identifying Characteristics – Very large pectoral fins
- Average Size – 1.6 to 3.8 in.
- Park Locations – Middle and West Prong of the Little Pigeon River, Roaring Fork, Cosby Creek, Porter's Creek, and Big Creek
- Spawning Period – Early spring
- Interesting Fact – Named after the Swannanoa River in North Carolina



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Percidae
- Common Name – Tangerine Darter
- Scientific Name – ***Percina aurantiaca***
- Coloration – Back olive yellow lower sides and belly bright orange in breeding males, yellow in females
- Identifying Characteristics – Row of small black spot above wide black mid-lateral stripe
- Average Size – 2.0 to 6.8 in.
- Park Locations – Little River, Middle Prong of the Little Pigeon River, Hazel Creek below Rowan Creek, and Noland Creek
- Spawning Period – May to June
- Interesting Fact – One of Tennessee's largest darters



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Percidae
- Common Name – Olive Darter
- Scientific Name – ***Percina squamata***
- Coloration – Olive body with a darker mid-lateral blotchy line
- Identifying Characteristics – Elongated body with very pronounced snout
- Average Size – 2.0 to 5.2 in.
- Park Locations – Forney Creek, Deep Creek, Hazel Creek, and Noland Creek
- Spawning Period – May to July
- Interesting Fact – Strictly an inhabitant of high gradient streams and upland rivers



Photo Courtesy of American Fisheries Society



- Family – Percidae
- Common Name – Wounded Darter
- Scientific Name – *Etheostoma vulneratum*
- Coloration – Gray to dark olive with horizontal lines on the side and small red spots in between
- Identifying Characteristics – Red spots on 1st and 2nd rays of 1st dorsal fin; eyes almost on top of head; rounded caudal fin
- Average Size – 1.0 to 3.2 in.
- Park Locations – Middle Prong Little Pigeon River, Abrams Creek, Oconaluftee River, and Little River
- Spawning Period – May to July
- Interesting Fact – Eggs are deposited in masses on the underside of rocks and in corners formed by rocks laying against each other; males and females defend the clutch



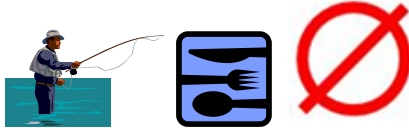
Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Percidae
- Common Name – Tennessee Snubnose Darter
- Scientific Name – *Etheostoma simoterum*
- Coloration – Upper sides tan with reddish scales often forming zigzag lines and 8 to 10 dark saddles during non-breeding; breeding colors include an overall orange background with dark saddles
- Identifying Characteristics – Very blunt snout, strongly decurved; anteriorly robust
- Average Size – 1.4 to 3.0 in.
- Park Locations – Middle and West Prong of the Little Pigeon River, Abrams Creek, Roaring Fork, Cosby Creek, Tabcat Creek, Shop Creek, and Little River
- Spawning Period – April to May
- Interesting Fact – Occur in anything from trout streams to low elevation small creeks to medium sized rivers



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Percidae
- Common Name – Walleye
- Scientific Name – ***Sander vitreus***
- Coloration – Upper body ranges from bluish-gray to brown to yellow speckled with a darker pigment
- Identifying Characteristics – Canine teeth; tip of lower caudal fin white
- Average Size – 0.2 to 26.1 in.
- Park Locations – Abrams Creek embayment
- Spawning Period – March to April
- Interesting Fact – Potadromous fish migrating upriver to spawn



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press



- Family – Percidae
- Common Name – Logperch
- Scientific Name – ***Percina caprodes***
- Coloration – Light colored body with 15 to 22 black vertical stripes along sides
- Identifying Characteristics – Elongate body; cone shaped head with pointed snout and overhanging mouth
- Average Size – 2.8 to 6.5 in.
- Park Locations – Roaring Fork, Abrams Creek, and Tabcat Creek above the embayment
- Spawning Period – April to May
- Interesting Fact – One of the most commonly occurring darters and thus one of the most studied species



Photo Courtesy of University of Tennessee Press

- Family – Petromyzontidae
- Common Name – American Brook Lamprey
- Scientific Name – ***Lampetra appendix***
- Coloration – Dark back, pale belly
- Identifying Characteristics – Dorsal fin separated; dark blotch at end of tail
- Average Size – up to 8 in.
- Park Locations – Abrams Creek at the mouth of Panther Creek, Abrams Creek at and .5 miles above the mouth, Little River at the boundary, and Tabcat Creek above the embayment
- Spawning Period – March to April
- Interesting Fact – Non-parasitic; first fossil record is from 280 million years ago



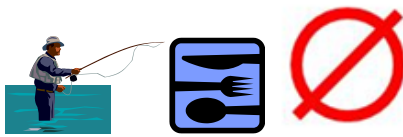
Photo Courtesy of GRSM



- Family – Salmonidae
- Common Name – Brook Trout
- Scientific Name – ***Salvelinus fontinalis***
- Local Names – Speckled trout and Brookie
- Coloration – Olive tint on back and sides with lighter wavy lines; red spots within blue halos on sides; underside as well as pelvic, pectoral, and anal fins light orange
- Identifying Characteristics – Pelvic, pectoral, and anal fins have white leading edges followed by a dark area
- Average Size – 1.2 to 9.8 in.
- Park Locations – West Prong Little Pigeon River, Big Creek, Kephart Prong, Beech Flats Prong, Cosby Creek, Lower Abrams Creek (reclamation), Straight Fork, Lynn Camp Prong, Indian Flats Creek, Straight Fork, Collins Creek, Indian Flats Creek, Cosby Creek, Oconaluftee River behind the Visitor Center
- Spawning Period – September to October
- Interesting Fact – The only native trout to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park



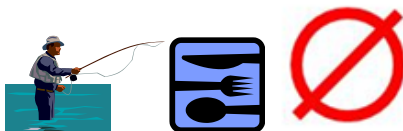
Photo Courtesy of GRSM



- Family – Salmonidae
- Common Name – Brown Trout
- Scientific Name – ***Salmo trutta***
- Coloration – Brown coloration with red spots
- Identifying Characteristics – Have a lighter colored background with dark spots
- Average Size – 8 to 10 in.
- Park Locations – Found at lower elevations in all major watersheds
- Spawning Period – November
- Interesting Fact – Switches to a piscivorous diet after reaching roughly 8 inches



Photo Courtesy of American Fisheries Society



- Family – Salmonidae
- Common Name – Rainbow Trout
- Scientific Name – ***Salvelinus fontinalis***
- Coloration – Pinkish coloration with dark spots
- Identifying Characteristics – Have a darker colored background with lighter spots
- Average Size – 5 to 8 in.
- Park Locations – Found at lower elevations in all major watersheds
- Spawning Period – February to March
- Interesting Fact – Introduced in the early 1900's from the west coast to supplement decreasing Brook trout populations