

STUDIES ON THE LIFE HISTORY OF THE BLUNT-NOSED MINNOW*

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(Abstract)

1. A single collection of 369 specimens of the blunt-nosed minnow, *Hyborhynchus notatus*, was taken from a dredged tributary of the Black Slough in Champaign County by David H. Thompson of the Illinois State Natural History Survey and the senior author on April 27, 1928. The individuals have been subjected to statistical study and microscopical examination for age determination.

2. The fishes measured in standard length from 1.3 cm. to 7.9 cm.

3. The largest individuals are of the maximum size encountered in a collection of 6,440 specimens of the same species taken by Dr. Thompson from Champaign County.

4. Individuals under 4.5 cm. long are less than one year old with actual ages of from 8 to 11 months. This statement is based upon a microscopical examination of the scales and observations by Hankinson which indicate that in central Illinois this species has a breeding season extending from May 1 to August 26.

5. In specimens over one year, the males are regularly larger than the females; median for males 7 cm., for females 5 cm.

6. The oldest females are slightly under two years of age.

7. The oldest males are slightly under three years of age.

8. Females of the blunt-nosed minnow seem to have a single breeding season, which occurs in their second year.

9. Males of this species seem to be immature in their second year. Only the three-year-old males have well-developed testes and display the pearl-organ on the head. Males of the two-year age class and some of the smallest males of the three-year group lack pearl-organs entirely.

* The complete paper upon which this abstract is based, has been published in *The American Naturalist*, Vol. 63, No. 689, pages 530-539.