

GOLDEN SHINER (*Notemigonus crysoleucas*)



Image by Noel Burkhead

Other common names: Pond shiner, golden, Arkansas red.

Identification: Body is deep and strongly compressed laterally. Head and snout are pointed. Mouth is small and decidedly upturned causing the chin to project ahead of mouth. Scales are large. Midline of belly between pelvic and anal fins is a fleshy, scaleless ridge or “keel.” Lateral line on sides with dark pores and is deeply “U-shaped.” Anal fin has a long base (usually 11-14 rays). **Coloration:** Back is dark olive-green; sides on adult fish may vary from golden, brassy or silvery. Young fish are silvery with a broad dark lateral band. A cultured variety, called the Arkansas red, has silvery scales with a pronounced pinkish overtone. **Size:** Average about 2-4 inches; large individuals up to 8-10 inches.

Habitat: This is a fish of warm, clear, weedy, shallow lakes and ponds. The golden shiner is widely distributed and common in Vermont.

Bait use: A very popular bait fish and is readily available from most commercial bait dealers, although it is not particularly hardy either in the bait bucket or on the hook compared to some other bait fish species.