

MIMIC SHINER (*Notropis volucellus*)



Image by Image by Ellen Edmonson

Other common names: Shiner, minnow.

Identification: Body is slender and compressed laterally. Snout is broad, rounded, and barely overhangs the small, slightly upturned mouth. Eyes are large. Scales particularly on the back and upper sides are dark edged; scales on forward part of lateral line are taller and narrower than elsewhere. Silvery sides have a faint, dusky lateral stripe which is more evident and thickest near the tail. Fins are clear. There is dark pigmentation around the anus and base of the anal fin. Coloration: Back is yellowish-olive; sides are silvery; underside is silvery-white. Size: Average about 2-3 inches.

Habitat: This is a fish of sandy pools in small to large rivers and some lakes. The mimic shiner is not a widely distributed species in Vermont but is fairly common in Lake Champlain and the Connecticut River.

Bait use: This fish is more apt to be encountered as wild trapped bait. It is not generally available from commercial dealers unless it comes mixed with other wild caught minnows and shiners.