

Native Killishes

by Alfred D. Castro

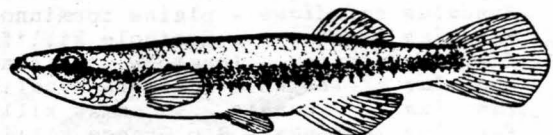
North America (as NANFA defines it -- Mexico's southern border northward through Canada) is an exceedingly large area with a wide variety of fishes: sunfishes, minnows, sticklebacks, a few tetras, etc. and the subject of this column, killifish. The killifish, family *Cyprinodontidae*, is represented on this continent by a modest number of species that have managed to inhabit a vast percentage of the available ecological niches.

There are killies that live in clear, cool mountain streams in Colorado; killies that live in the warm, sluggish lowland swamps of Louisiana; killies that live in the hot desert pools of California and Nevada; killies that live in the cold brackish waters of Nova Scotia; and killies that live in the tepid sea waters of Florida. There are other killies that have found their niche in the areas between these named extremes. In short, there are killies, naturally occurring, almost everywhere you look; but for some strange reason, very few people take the time to look.

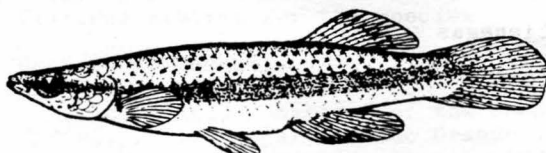
Of those few people who do look for killies, there seems to be even a smaller percentage that are willing to share their experiences. Perhaps it is because these people think that no one else cares or maybe they just need a little prodding. Well, I have "volunteered" to write a continuing column on killies to drum up interest. But I am actually not qualified to do so. I know something about a good many types of native killifish but there are several people in NANFA with more experience with individual species. When this finally gets going, I hope that they will, in turn, volunteer to give a write-up on their particular forte. If everyone will help in this venture, we will insure that there is enough material to put out an AMERICAN CURRENTS on a regular basis and it will lighten the workload of an overburdened editor. If you think that you can help, or if you think that you would be willing to learn how to help, please contact me or the editor of this magazine for further information.

To get started on this project, I feel that the first thing to do is to list those species that are known to exist. Once we have the names down, we can get to work (this has the added advantage of letting you know what fish you can help on in the future).

BLACKSTRIPE TOPMINNOW
Fundulus notatus (Rafinesque)



BLACKSPOTTED TOPMINNOW,
Fundulus olivaceus (Storer)



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THE FAMILY CYPRINODONTIDAE (KILLIFISH) FROM NORTH AMERICA (as defined by NANFA)

Adinia xenica - diamond killifish
Chriopeoides pengelleyi - Jamaican killifish
Crenichthys baileyi - White River killifish
Crenichthys nevadae - Railroad Valley killifish
Cualac tessallatus - Media Luna killifish
Cubanichthys cubensis - Cuban killifish
Cyprinodon alvarezei - Perrito de Potosi (Potosi pupfish)
Cyprinodon atrorus - Bolson pupfish
Cyprinodon baconi -
Cyprinodon beltrani -
Cyprinodon bifasciatus -
Cyprinodon bovinus - Leon Springs pupfish
Cyprinodon diabolis - Devils Hole pupfish
Cyprinodon elegans - Comanche Springs pupfish
Cyprinodon eximius - Conchos pupfish
Cyprinodon jamaicensis - Jamaican minnow
Cyprinodon laciniatus - Bahama pupfish
Cyprinodon latifasciatus - Parras pupfish
Cyprinodon macrolepis - largescale pupfish
Cyprinodon macularius - desert pupfish
Cyprinodon meeki - Mezquital pupfish
Cyprinodon milleri - Cottonball Marsh pupfish
Cyprinodon nazas - Nazas pupfish
Cyprinodon nevadensis - Death Valley pupfish
Cyprinodon pecosensis - Pecos River pupfish
Cyprinodon radiosus - Owens pupfish
Cyprinodon rubrofluviatilis - Red River pupfish
Cyprinodon salinus - Salt Creek pupfish
Cyprinodon tularosa - White Sands pupfish
Cyprinodon variegatus - sheepshead minnow
Empetrichthys latos - Pahrump killifish
Empetrichthys merriami - Ash Meadows killifish
Floridichthys carpio - goldspotted killifish
Fundulus albolineatus - whiteline topminnow
Fundulus blairae - batatit
Fundulus catenatus - northern studfish
Fundulus chrysotus - golden topminnow
Fundulus cingulatus - banded topminnow
Fundulus confluentus - marsh killifish
Fundulus diaphanus - banded killifish
Fundulus dispar - northern starhead topminnow
Fundulus escambiae - eastern starhead topminnow
Fundulus grandis - gulf killifish
Fundulus grandissimus - giant killifish
Fundulus heteroclitus - mummichog
Fundulus jenkinsi - saltmarsh topminnow
Fundulus kansae - plains killifish
Fundulus lima -
Fundulus lineolatus - lined topminnow
Fundulus luciae - spotfin killifish
Fundulus majalis - striped killifish
Fundulus notti - western starhead topminnow
Fundulus parvipinnis - California killifish
Fundulus persimilis - Yucatan killifish
Fundulus pulvereus - bayou killifish
Fundulus rathbuni - speckled killifish
Fundulus sciadicus - plains topminnow
Fundulus seminolis - Seminole killifish
Fundulus similis - longnose killifish
Fundulus stellifer - southern studfish
Fundulus waccamensis - Waccamaw killifish
Fundulus zebrinus - Rio Grande killifish
Garmanella pulchra -
Jordanella floridae - flagfish
Leptolucania ommata - pygmy killifish
Lucania godei - bluefin killifish
Lucania interioris - sardinilla Cuatro Ciénegas
Lucania parva - rainwater killifish
Megupsilon aporus - perrito enano de Potosi

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Profundulus hildebrandi -
Profundulus labialis -
Profundulus punctatus -
Rivulus cylindraceus - Cuban Rivulus
Rivulus marmoratus - speckled Rivulus
Rivulus robustus -
Rivulus roloffi - Haitian Rivulus
Rivulus tenuis -
Zygonectes notatus - blackstripe topminnow
Zygonectes olivaceus - blackspotted topminnow

There! Now you have a list of names. There are some obvious names missing from my list. In most cases they are subspecies of previously named species. In the next column I will carry the "name game" a little further and try to fill in the blanks. I have supplied common names for a good many species but there are some that I do not know. If you can supply an acceptable (or accepted) common name for any of the blanks, please do so. I would like to hear from YOU!

Now, remember. If you would like to help on this column, please contact me or the editor and we will let you know what is needed. Write to: Killifish, AMERICAN CURRENTS, P.O. Box 88703, Emeryville, CA 94662.