

# A STUDY OF THE FOOD OF THREE FISH SPECIES FROM THE PORTAGE LAKES, OHIO.

HAROLD CASSIDY, ARTHUR DOBKIN, AND RALPH WETZEL.

## INTRODUCTION.

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During fish seining operations in the summers of 1926 and 1927, by the writer and assistants, many fishes, particularly minnows and other smaller types were secured from the Portage Lakes near Akron, Ohio.

Previously the writer published a paper on the food of the most abundant fish species of the lakes; (Kraatz: Study of the food of the blunt-nosed minnow, *Pimephales notatus*, Ohio Jour. Sci., Vol. XXVIII, No. 2, pp. 86-98, March 1928).

Food of any fish species of various localities is of interest in extending existing data on food habits, and it is thought desirable to publish food data on three other species from these lakes, but combined as one paper from the independent papers of the three student authors, to save repetition of introductions, etc. Discussion of details is largely omitted, as is a bibliography, which in this brief report is deemed superfluous. The methods of food study were the same standard methods employed in the above-mentioned paper in which they are sufficiently described.

*Opsopoeodus emiliae* was the second most abundant minnow in the lakes during the collecting period, and *Notemigonus* (*Abramis*) *crysoleucas* was third. The "top minnow," *Fundulus diaphanus menona*, is of special interest because in this group of lakes it is found only in Turkeyfoot Lake, and in Ohio in general, only in the very northern part, and has been principally reported from Lake Erie bays and streams leading into them.

## FOOD OF THE MINNOW *Opsopoeodus emiliae*.

By HAROLD CASSIDY.

Only 32 specimens were studied, but the diets of these were so similar that they can be regarded as representative for these waters. Of these specimens 27 were from New Reservoir, 4 from Turkeyfoot Lake, and 1 from Nesmith Lake.

This minnow, (Table I), seems to have a preference for an animal diet as attested by the large number of Chironomidæ larvæ, Cladocera and Ostracoda ingested. The plant material may have been ingested largely as incidental material in the feeding. Noting the large number of midge larvæ eaten, a few were examined as to their food, and found to contain chiefly diatoms, Scenedesmus and some filamentous green algæ, all of which were likewise found free but in very small proportions in the minnow intestine. Opsopoeodus having principally an animal diet, more so than Pimephales notatus, is therefore more in competition with game fishes in their early stages. However no more than Pimephales does it in any way destroy young fishes in their early stages, and it also forms a link in the chain of converting plankton to a form available to the larger game fishes.

FOOD OF THE GOLDEN SHINER  
*Notemigonus (Abramis) crysoleucas.*

By ARTHUR DOBKIN.

A series of 40 Portage Lakes specimens were studied, distributed as follows: New Reservoir, 34; East Reservoir, 4; Turkeyfoot Lake; 2.

This minnow, (Table II), seems to have preference for an animal diet. This is at least certain in specimens of the small size available from these particular waters, though it has been evident from other studies that considerable variability in food may exist. Cladocera formed by far the largest food type with Ostracoda second. In some cases Copepoda and in a few algæ were common. Thus it was feeding almost entirely on plankton, and only 4 specimens showed by inorganic debris ingested, a bottom feeding habit. The golden shiner is another good example of a fish suitable for converting plankton into food for larger game fishes.

FOOD OF THE MENONA TOP MINNOW,  
*Fundulus diaphanus menona.*

By RALPH WETZEL.

All specimens of the species collected were from Turkeyfoot Lake, and 40 were examined for food. These were all more than half grown and mostly mature. Many females carried eggs, and the intestinal contents in these were meagre. In one specimen virtually nothing was found.

It is of course apparent, (Table III), that this fish is a plankton feeder. Various Entomostraca formed outstanding food items, and in a very large number of cases, Amphipoda were prominent. The latter was the genus *Hyaella* so common in these waters, mostly on vegetation just a little submerged in shallow water. Very little phytoplankton was eaten, and in these specimens at least the food is principally larger animal plankton.

TABLE I.  
*Opsopoeodus emiliae*.  
Percentage Composition of Alimentary Canal Contents.

Locality	Date	Length of Fish, mm.	Length of Intestine, mm.	Degree Filled	Inorganic	Plant Debris	Blue-green algae	Diatoms	Desmids	Scenedesmus	Green algae	Higher Plant Remains	Statoblasts of Bryozoa	Copepoda	Cladocera	Ostracoda	Chironomid Larvae	Insect Eggs	Insects (Various)	Animal Debris		
New Reservoir	7/15/26	47	27	.25	5	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	30	5	50	...	...	4		
	"	50	33	.20	1	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	5	40	...	...	20		
	"	51	25	.25	1	...	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	4	...	30	...	60	...		
	"	48	40	.25	1	...	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	...	65	...	...	25		
	"	51	25	.15	1	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	50	...	...	43		
	"	45	34	.15	4	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	...	60	...	...	30		
	"	52	27	.15	1	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	85		
	"	7/22/26	50	30	.50	...	12	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	5	10	20	5	...	45	
	"	"	50	30	.50	1	5	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	5	40	...	...	...	45	
	"	"	53	30	.60	...	10	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	40	1	...	...	45	
	"	"	56	29	.25	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	3	5	70	...	...	19	
	"	"	55	35	.33	...	1	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	11	...	70	...	...	15	
	"	"	45	30	.85	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80	7	3	...	1	9	
	"	"	46	25	.75	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	20	...	70	8	
	"	"	49	27	.60	...	7	...	1	...	2	15	...	...	...	...	70	...	...	...	5	
	"	"	45	35	.90	...	2	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	35	5	55	...	...	...	
	"	"	44	24	.50	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	20	8	60	...	5	5	
	"	"	50	25	.0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	"	"	46	26	.75	...	2	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	10	...	...	50
	Turkey Foot Lake	7/29/26*	48	27	.20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
"		48	26	.20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
"		46	22	.60	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	40	25	...	...	...	80	
"		55	33	.40	...	...	5	1	...	...	5	...	...	...	5	4	...	...	...	...	100	
"		49	23	.40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
"		48	32	.30	...	10	5	1	...	...	4	...	...	10	45	...	10	...	...	...	15	
"	50	25	.15	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	35	5	...	...	...	...	40		
"	46	20	.35	...	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	...	25	...	...	...	35	
N*	7/24/26	46	38	.65	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	95	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	"	45	31	.30	...	47	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	47	
	"	40	26	.75	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	35	...	...	55	...	2	...	...	...	5	
	"	44	29	.65	...	...	2	1	...	...	20	10	...	...	31	...	...	30	...	...	6	
N*	7/6/26	49	11	.25	20	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	20	...	10	...	...	20	...	...	20	

\*Nesmith Lake.



TABLE III.

*Fundulus diaphanus menona.*

Percentage Composition of Alimentary Canal Contents.

Locality	Date	Fish Length, mm.	Intestine Length, mm.	Degree Filled	Inorganic	Blue-green algae	One-celled Green algae	Filamentous Green algae	Higher Plant Debris	Protozoa	Copepoda	Cladocera	Ostracoda	Amphipoda	Chironomid Larvae	Gastropoda	Fish Eggs	Unrecognizable Organic
(All caught 1928)	7/10	46	30	1.00	10			8	3	5	5	10	25		5			29
	"	60	35	.75	5			15	5	3		7	20	2	20	3		20
	"	49	32	.15	2		40				5	15		5	8			25
	"	47	30	.50	10				5		25	30						30
	"	43	26	1.00	2	2				10			30	5	40	3		8
	"	34	17	.50			5				15	10	5	15	40			10
	"	46	24	.50			2	3			60	5	3	15	2			10
	"	37	22	.50						10		5		5	70			10
	"	34	17	.25	2		5						20	70				3
	"	45	24	.50	10					10			10	65		3		2
TURKEY FOOT LAKE	"	48	24	.25	5		5		10	3			30	20	15			5
	"	50	28	.50	5	3	2	10		5		5	10	25	20	5		10
	"	37	20	.25	5		15				10			35	15			20
	"	48	25	1.00	3			10		30			40	5				12
	"	50	27	1.00			10		2		25		5	45	5			8
	"	47	30	1.00			3	10				5	2	60	10			10
	"	40	25	.25		5	10		15			10	50					10
	"	50	32	.75	3		5	5	3			5	10		15		35	19
	"	40	22	.50			10			5	25	50						10
	"	43	23	.50			7			3	30	55						5
	"	60	42	.25				10		5		5	25	30	5			20
	"	45	28	.50				5			7		10	45	15			13
	"	42	24	.75				2	3			5	5	20	60	2		3
	"	50	33	1.00				10			10		10	5	30			35
	"	53	34	0														
	"	45	26	.25						4	70	10			3			13
	"	57	32	.50	8						10	15	20	12				35
	"	54	28	.25		5					5	10	15	30	15			20
	"	50	25	.25	3		3			2		7			50	10		25
	"	52	30	.75						5			10	8	45	10		22
	"	51	30	1.00	3		5	20	7	5		15	10	15	10			10
	"	52	28	1.00			5	5	7					2	3	3		75
	"	39	15	.25			3	5				25	25	5	2			30
	"	53	30	1.00			3	2	7		3		5	60				20
	"	50	27	.75				5				10	5	25				55
	"	45	23	.50							15	15	15	40				15
	"	42	20	.15								10	10					80
	"	60	35	.75	5			5	15		5	2	3			15		50
"	62	35	1.00			3	2			5	20	5	55	5			10	
"	55	30	.25						3			20	40		40		32	