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A Checklist of the Fishes of West Virginia

Abstract—The known and expected fishes of West Virginia are documented. Seven major drainages occur in the state: the Potomac and James of the Atlantic slope; and the Monongahela, Little Kanawha, upper and lower Kanawha system, Guyandotte, and Big Sandy of the Ohio River drainage. 151 species are known from the state with an additional 18 species expected.

Introduction

A unique and diverse fish fauna occurs in the seven major drainages of West Virginia. Atlantic coast systems that drain montane eastern West Virginia are the Potomac and James Rivers. Other drainages are exclusively of the Ohio River system: Monongahela, Little Kanawha, lower and upper Kanawha, Guyandotte and the Big Sandy Rivers. The authors follow Jenkins, Lachner and Schwartz (1971), among others, who distinguish the Kanawha River as being separated by Kanawha Falls into upper and lower faunal associations. The upper Kanawha system is virtually synonymous with the New River system in ichthyological literature.

West Virginia streams have played a major role in the dispersal of fishes since the Pleistocene. Numerous stream piracies and transfers of fauna between

major drainages have occurred, often leading to isolation and speciation of distinct forms. Geological and biological aspects of the region were recently considered by numerous workers in Holt 1969, 1970, 1971.

Goldsborough and Clark (1908) published the first checklist of the fishes of West Virginia. Other attention was devoted by Addair (1944), Raney (1947), and Raney and Seaman (1950). Osburn (1901) and Trautman (1957) considered the fishes of the main-channel Ohio River. However, a complete checklist has been lacking since this earlier work. Jenkins et al. (1971) presented perhaps the most comprehensive view of the fishes of the state and surrounding drainages. Schwartz (1967), Hambrick et al. (1973), Denoncourt, Hocutt and Stauffer (1975) and Stauffer et al. (1975) recently contributed to an overview of West Virginia ichthyofauna.

151 species representing 21 families are recorded from West Virginia. An additional 18 species are expected to occur (*). Other forms may be introduced in time. Scientific and common names follow Bailey et al. (1970), except for *Percina crassa roanoka* (Jordan and Jenkins) which is discussed by Hocutt and Hambrick (1973) and Page (1974). The checklist is a preliminary review of the fishes of West Virginia. A diagnostic key and distributional study considering subspecies will follow in the near future.

Checklist

<i>Petromyzontidae</i>			
<i>Ichthyomyzon bdellium</i> (Jordan)	Ohio lamprey	<i>Hybognathus nuchalis</i> Agassiz	Silvery minnow
<i>I. greeleyi</i> Hubbs and Trautman	Alleghany brook lamprey	<i>Hybopsis aestivalis</i> (Girard)	Speckled chub
<i>I. unicuspis</i> Hubbs and Trautman	Silver lamprey	<i>H. amblops</i> (Rafinesque)	Bigeye chub
<i>Lampetra aepyptera</i> (Abbott)	Least brook lamprey	<i>H. dissimilis</i> (Kirtland)	Streamline chub
<i>L. lamottei</i> (Lesueur)	American brook lamprey	<i>H. storeriana</i> (Kirtland)	Silver chub
<i>Acipenseridae</i>		<i>*H. x-punctata</i> Hubbs & Crowe	Gravel chub
<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i> Rafinesque	Lake sturgeon	<i>*Nocomis biguttatus</i> (Kirtland)	Hornyhead chub
<i>Scaphirhynchus platorynchus</i> (Rafinesque)	Shovelnose sturgeon	<i>N. leptocephalus</i> (Girard)	Bluehead chub
<i>Polyodontidae</i>		<i>N. micropogon</i> (Cope)	River chub
<i>Polyodon spathula</i> (Walbaum)	Paddlefish	<i>N. platyrhynchus</i> Lachner and Jenkins	Bigmouth chub
<i>Lepisosteidae</i>		<i>Notemigonus crysoleucas</i> (Mitchill)	Golden shiner
<i>Lepisosteus osseus</i> (Linnaeus)	Longnose gar	<i>Notropis albeolus</i> Jordan	White shiner
<i>*L. platostomus</i> Rafinesque	Shortnose gar	<i>N. amoenus</i> (Abbott)	Comely shiner
<i>Amiidae</i>		<i>N. analostanus</i> (Girard)	Satinfin shiner
<i>Amia calva</i> Linnaeus	Bowfin	<i>N. ardens</i> (Cope)	Rosefin shiner
<i>Anguillidae</i>		<i>N. ariommus</i> (Cope)	Popeye shiner
<i>Anguilla rostrata</i> (Lesueur)	American eel	<i>N. atherinoides</i> Rafinesque	Emerald shiner
<i>Clupeidae</i>		<i>N. blennius</i> (Girard)	River shiner
<i>Alosa chrysochloris</i> (Rafinesque)	Shipjack herring	<i>*N. hoops</i> Gilbert	Bigeye shiner
<i>A. pseudoharengus</i> (Wilson)	Alewife	<i>N. buchanani</i> (Meek)	Ghost shiner
<i>Dorosoma cepedianum</i> (Lesueur)	Gizzard shad	<i>*N. cerasinus</i> (Cope)	Crescent shiner
<i>D. petenense</i> (Gunther)	Treadfin shad	<i>N. chrysocephalus</i> (Rafinesque)	Striped shiner
<i>Hiodontidae</i>		<i>N. cornutus</i> (Mitchill)	Common shiner
<i>Hiodon alosoides</i> (Rafinesque)	Goldeye	<i>N. dorsalis</i> (Agassiz)	Bigmouth shiner
<i>H. tergisus</i> Lesueur	Mooneye	<i>N. galacturus</i> (Cope)	Whitetail shiner
<i>Salmonidae</i>		<i>N. hudsonius</i> (Clinton)	Spottail shiner
<i>Salmo gairdneri</i> Richardson	Rainbow trout	<i>N. photogenis</i> (Cope)	Silver shiner
<i>S. trutta</i> Linnaeus	Brown trout	<i>N. procne</i> (Cope)	Swallowtail shiner
<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> (Mitchill)	Brook trout	<i>N. rubellus</i> (Agassiz)	Rosyface shiner
<i>Umbridae</i>		<i>N. scabriceps</i> (Cope)	New River shiner
<i>*Umbrina limi</i> (Kirtland)	Central mudminnow	<i>*N. semperasper</i> Gilbert	Roughhead shiner
<i>Esocidae</i>		<i>N. spilopterus</i> (Cope)	Spotfin shiner
<i>Esox americanus</i> Gmelin	Grass pickerel	<i>N. stramineus</i> (Cope)	Sand shiner
<i>E. lucius</i> Linnaeus	Northern pike	<i>N. telescopus</i> (Cope)	Telescope shiner
<i>E. masquihongyi</i> Mitchell	Muskellunge	<i>N. umbratilus</i> (Girard)	Redfin shiner
<i>E. niger</i> Lesueur	Chain pickerel	<i>N. volucellus</i> (Cope)	Mimic shiner
<i>Cyprinidae</i>		<i>N. whipplei</i> (Girard)	Steelcolor shiner
<i>Campostoma anomalum</i> (Rafinesque)	Stoneroller	<i>Phenacobius mirabilis</i> (Girard)	Suckermouth minnow
<i>Carassius auratus</i> (Linnaeus)	Goldfish	<i>P. teretulus</i> Cope	Kanawha minnow
<i>Clinostomus elongatus</i> (Kirtland)	Redside dace	<i>Phoxinus erythrogaster</i> (Rafinesque)	Southern redbelly dace
<i>C. funduloides</i> Girard	Rosyside dace	<i>P. oreas</i> (Cope)	Mountain redbelly dace
<i>Cyprinus carpio</i> Linnaeus	Carp	<i>Pimephales notatus</i> (Rafinesque)	Bluntnose minnow
<i>Ericymba buccata</i> Cope	Silverjaw minnow	<i>P. promelas</i> Rafinesque	Fathead minnow
<i>Exoglossum laurae</i> (Hubbs)	Tonguetied minnow	<i>P. vigilax</i> (Baird and Girard)	Bullhead minnow
<i>E. maxillingua</i> (Lesueur)	Cutlips minnow	<i>Rhinichthys atratulus</i> (Hermann)	Blacknose dace
		<i>R. cataractae</i> (Valenciennes)	Longnose dace
		<i>Semotilus atromaculatus</i> (Mitchill)	Creek chub
		<i>S. corporalis</i> (Mitchill)	Fallfish
		<i>S. margarita</i> (Cope)	Pearl dace
		<i>Catostomidae</i>	
		<i>Carpiodes carpio</i> (Rafinesque)	River carpsucker
		<i>C. cyprinus</i> (Lesueur)	Quillback
		<i>C. velifer</i> (Rafinesque)	Highfin carpsucker
		<i>Catostomus catostomus</i> (Forster)	Longnose sucker
		<i>C. commersoni</i> (Lacepede)	White sucker
		<i>*Cycleptus elongatus</i> (Lesueur)	Blue sucker
		<i>Erimyzon oblongus</i> (Mitchill)	Creek chubsucker
		<i>*E. sucetta</i> (Lacepede)	Lake chubsucker
		<i>Hypentelium nigricans</i> (Lesueur)	Hog sucker
		<i>Ictiobus bubalus</i> (Rafinesque)	Smallmouth buffalo
		<i>I. cyprinella</i> (Valenciennes)	Bigmouth buffalo
		<i>I. niger</i> (Rafinesque)	Black buffalo
		<i>Minytrema melanops</i> (Rafinesque)	Spotted sucker
		<i>Moxostoma anisurum</i> (Rafinesque)	Silver redhorse
		<i>M. carinatum</i> (Cope)	River redhorse
		<i>*M. cervinum</i> (Cope)	Black jumprock
		<i>M. duquesnei</i> (Lesueur)	Black redhorse
		<i>M. erythrurum</i> (Rafinesque)	Golden redhorse
		<i>M. macrolepidotum</i> (Lesueur)	Shorthead redhorse
		<i>M. rhothoecum</i> (Thoburn)	Torrent sucker

Ictaluridae

<i>Ictalurus catus</i> (Linnaeus)	White catfish
<i>I. furcatus</i> (Lesueur)	Blue catfish
<i>I. melas</i> (Rafinesque)	Black bullhead
<i>I. natalis</i> (Lesueur)	Yellow bullhead
<i>I. nebulosus</i> (Lesueur)	Brown bullhead
<i>I. punctatus</i> (Rafinesque)	Channel catfish
* <i>Noturus eleutherus</i> Jordan	Mountain madtom
<i>N. flavus</i> Rafinesque	Stonecat
<i>N. gyrinus</i> Mitchill	Tadpole madtom
<i>N. insignis</i> (Richardson)	Margined madtom
<i>N. miurus</i> Jordan	Brindled madtom
* <i>N. stigmatosus</i> Taylor	Northern madtom
<i>Pylodictis olivaris</i> (Rafinesque)	Flathead catfish

Percopsidae

<i>Percopsis omiscomaycus</i> (Walbaum)	Trout-perch
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Cyprinodontidae

<i>Fundulus diaphanus</i> (Lesueur)	Banded killifish
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Atherinidae

<i>Labidesthes sicculus</i> (Cope)	Brook silverside
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Percichthyidae

<i>Morone chrysops</i> (Rafinesque)	White bass
<i>M. saxatilis</i> (Walbaum)	Striped bass

Centrarchidae

<i>Ambloplites rupestris</i> (Rafinesque)	Rock bass
<i>Lepomis auritus</i> (Linnaeus)	Redbreast sunfish
<i>L. cyanellus</i> Rafinesque	Green sunfish
<i>L. gibbosus</i> (Linnaeus)	Pumpkinseed
<i>L. gulosus</i> (Cuvier)	Warmouth
<i>L. humilis</i> (Girard)	Orangespotted sunfish
<i>L. macrochirus</i> Rafinesque	Bluegill
<i>L. megalotis</i> (Rafinesque)	Longear sunfish
* <i>L. microlophus</i> (Gunther)	Redear sunfish
<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i> Lacepede	Smallmouth bass
<i>M. punctulatus</i> (Rafinesque)	Spotted bass
<i>M. salmoides</i> (Lacepede)	Largemouth bass
<i>Pomoxis annularis</i> Rafinesque	White crappie
<i>P. nigromaculatus</i> (Lesueur)	Black crappie

Percidae

* <i>Ammocrypta asprella</i> Jordan	Crystal darter
<i>A. pellucida</i> (Putnam)	Eastern sand darter
<i>Etheostoma blennioides</i> Rafinesque	Greenside darter
<i>E. caeruleum</i> Storer	Rainbow darter
<i>E. camurum</i> (Cope)	Bluebreast darter
<i>E. flabellare</i> Rafinesque	Fantail darter
* <i>E. kanawhae</i> (Raney)	Kanawha darter
<i>E. longimanum</i> Jordan	Longfin darter
<i>E. maculatum</i> Kirtland	Spotted darter
<i>E. nigrum</i> Rafinesque	Johnny darter
<i>E. olmstedii</i> Storer	Tessellated darter
<i>E. osburni</i> (Hubbs and Trautman)	Finescale saddled darter
<i>E. tippecanoe</i> Jordan and Evermann	Tippecanoe darter
<i>E. variatum</i> Kirtland	Variagate darter
<i>E. zonale</i> (Cope)	Banded darter
<i>Perca flavescens</i> (Mitchill)	Yellow perch
<i>Percina caprodes</i> (Rafinesque)	Logperch
<i>P. crassa roanoka</i> (Jordan and Jenkins)	Piedmont darter
<i>P. copelandi</i> (Jordan)	Channel darter
<i>P. evides</i> (Jordan and Copeland)	Gilt darter

<i>P. macrocephala</i> (Cope)	Longhead darter
<i>P. maculata</i> (Girard)	Blackside darter
<i>P. notogramma</i> (Raney and Hubbs)	Stripeback darter
<i>P. oxyrhyncha</i> (Hubbs and Raney)	Sharpnose darter
* <i>P. peltata</i> (Stauffer)	Shield darter
<i>P. phoxocephala</i> (Nelson)	Slenderhead darter
<i>P. sciera</i> (Swain)	Dusky darter
* <i>P. shumardi</i> (Girard)	River darter
<i>Stizostedion canadense</i> (Smith)	Sauger
<i>S. vitreum</i> (Mitchill)	Walleye

Sciaenidae

<i>Aplodinotus grunniens</i> Rafinesque	Freshwater drum
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Cottidae

<i>Cottus bairdi</i> Girard	Mottled sculpin
<i>C. carolinae</i> (Gill)	Banded sculpin
* <i>C. cognatus</i> Richardson	Slimy sculpin

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