

# ARKANSAS DARTER

*ETHEOSTOMA CRAGINI*

**HABITAT** - Prefers sandy bottomed streams and an abundance of native vegetation and aquatic insects to feed on. Native to cool, springfed streams along the Eastern plains, this member of the Perch family is a state threatened fish in Colorado. Numerous reintroduction projects are underway to help restore this species to its historical range. Heavy agricultural and grazing use, along with other unnatural stream channel changes, create the biggest threat.

**IDENTIFICATION** - Measuring only 2.5 to 3 inches long, its upper body is brown with numerous darker "dashes" running horizontally and its belly is mostly white. Note the dark vertical bar beneath the eye.

**FUN FACTS** - The male darter's belly will turn from white to bright orange during the spring and summer spawning season. Darters eat aquatic animals such as snails, insects and fish eggs.



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