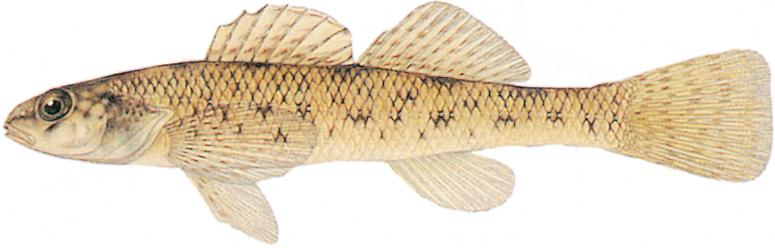


**Johnny darter**

*Etheostoma nigrum*



**Similar Species:** Many other darters

**Identification:** Small, slender fish, light colored with dark “W”-shaped marks along sides.

The johnny darter is found from Manitoba to Quebec and south to Arkansas. In South Dakota, it is found primarily in the eastern third of the state in small creeks and rivers. It can tolerate more turbidity than most other darters. The johnny darter does not have a swim bladder, and it must rely only on swimming power, current, and wave action for mobility. It lives on the bottom and feeds on small invertebrates and rarely grows larger than 3 inches.

