Habitats
interior rivers and streams; Mississippi River; Missouri River; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs

Iowa Status
uncommon; exotic

Iowa Range
eastern half of Iowa and Missouri River (Harrison County south)

Bibliography
Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001. *Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

goldfish
Carassius auratus

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Osteichthyes
Order:	Cypriniformes
Family:	Cyprinidae

Features
The goldfish may have many unusual color variations and body forms, but normally has a robust body that is olive brown on the back to bronze gold on the sides with a white belly. The dorsal fin is long. It superficially resembles the common carp, but it lacks the fleshy whisker-like barbels at the corners of the mouth, the lips are thin rather than fleshy, and the mouth is at the tip rather than on the underside of the snout. The body scales don't have a dark spot. Goldfish may hybridize with common carp if they live in the same body of water. In Iowa, adult fish typically range from eight to 16 inches long and weigh up to two pounds.

Natural History
The goldfish prefers standing or slow moving water with much plant growth. It eats zooplankton (microscopic animals) and aquatic insects. It spawns from April through August. The female scatters sticky eggs over plants. A large female can produce as many as 200,000 eggs.