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

Iowa Status
common; native

Iowa Range
statewide

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

orangespotted sunfish
Lepomis humilis

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Osteichthyes
Order:	Perciformes
Family:	Centrarchidae

Features
The orangespotted sunfish body is flattened side to side. The black flap on its gill cover is fairly long and has a white edge. The body is green on the back and sides and white or yellow on the belly. Rust-colored spots are present on the lower sides. Breeding males have red eyes, red or orange-red spots on the lower sides, and black edging on the pelvic and anal fins. Fish longer than four inches are rare in Iowa.

Natural History
The orangespotted sunfish lives in backwaters and overflow pools of rivers and in streams with little or no current. It is tolerant of high turbidity and siltation, conditions that many other sunfish cannot survive in. It eats crustaceans, insects, and fish. It reaches maturity in its third year. Spawning occurs from May to August. The male uses his fins to fan out a nest on the bottom. The female deposits eggs in the nest and the male fertilizes them. The male stays with the eggs until they hatch, about five days later.