

EMERALD SHINER

(*Notropis atherinoides*)

Oneida Lake Status:
Abundant

- Known in Oneida Lake as “buckeyes”
- Common Oneida Lake baitfish
- Annual population level fluctuates widely

Emerald shiners are a common member of the minnow family, and grow to be about 4 inches long in Oneida Lake. They have short snouts and large eyes (see photo below), and are silver with a green iridescence on their backs. An emerald color band frequently extends from the upper corner of the gill cover along the side to the tail.

Emerald shiners are open water (pelagic) fish, a trait that sets them apart from other minnow species. They are found in large lakes and rivers where they travel in large schools. In Oneida Lake, emerald shiners swim to the surface at night to feed on zooplankton and algae, and retreat to deeper water during the day.

Emerald shiner densities in Oneida Lake fluctuate widely from year to year. When they are abundant, emerald shiners are an important food source for the lake’s game fish species, and are the most important baitfish for anglers. Besides being found in Oneida Lake where they are called “buckeyes”, emerald shiners are common in New York’s larger lakes and rivers.



Emerald shiner in an aquarium:
<http://www.marietta.edu/~biol/biomes/images/streams/emeralds.jpg>



Shiners are a commonly used baitfish in Oneida Lake: http://www.tnfish.org/PhotoGalleryFish_TWRA/FishPhotoGallery_TWRA/images/EmeraldShinerWattsBarNegus.jpg



Emerald shiner in the wild:
<http://www.exciton.cs.rice.edu/faculty/wong/swggallery/aquarium/emlshine.jpg>



Emerald shiner detail drawing



Emerald shiners have large eyes, and short snouts:
http://www.tnfish.org/PhotoGalleryFish_TWRA/FishPhotoGallery_TWRA/images/EmeraldShinerFaceWattsBarNegus.jpg

Prepared by:

Alexander Sonneborn
Cornell Biological Field Station

Edited June 2013