

tify the following undesirable fish and try to keep them out of their ponds for the following reasons:

**Crappie** (*Pomoxis* spp.), **Yellow Perch** (*Perca flavescens*), **Green Sunfish** (*Lepomis cyanellus*), and **Bullheads** (*Ictalurus melas, natalis* and *nebulosus*)

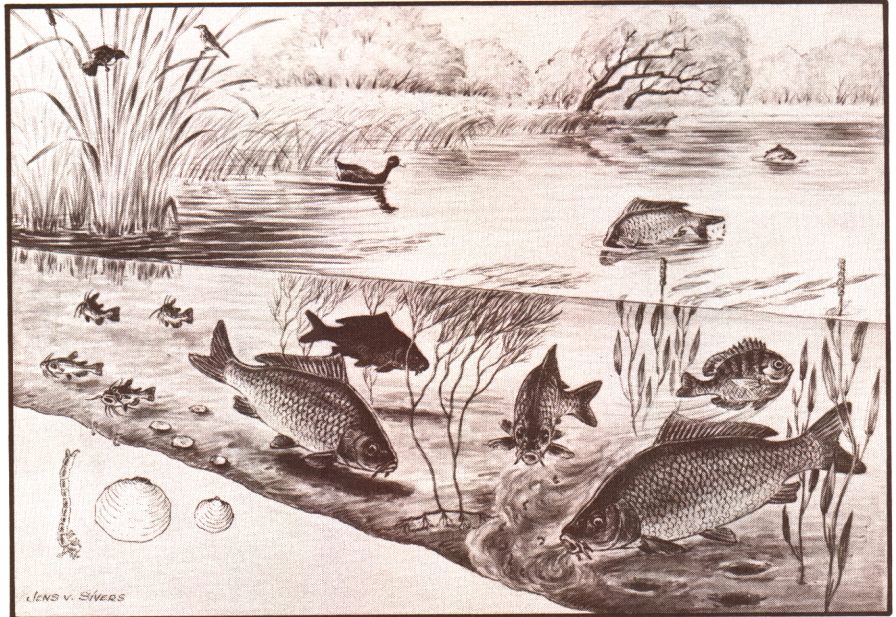
These fish, like bluegills, tend to overpopulate the pond and become stunted. They compete with and prey upon the eggs of other gamefish, particularly bass.

**Carp** (*Cyprinus carpio*), and **Suckers** (*Catostomus* spp. and others)

These also compete with gamefish for food and prey on their eggs. They are bottom feeders which roil the water, hampering sight-feeding by gamefish.

**Northern Pike**, (*Esox lucius*), **Walleye** (*Stizostedion vitreum vitreum*), and **Muskellunge** (*Esox masquinongy*)

Although survival is certain in most ponds, these "coolwater" fishes won't reproduce and are very expensive to purchase. They often prey heavily on bass and catfish, but not effectively enough on stunted panfish populations to remedy such problems.



Some of the fishes usually best kept out of ponds.

#### Exotics

Many species of fish exist in the world which are not native to Michigan and most would not survive in the wild here. However, certain species have the potential not only to survive here, but to reproduce. When this occurs, they become a nuisance and compete unfavorably with native fishes. The common carp is the best example of an introduced exotic which has had

adverse effects on some native fish populations. The grass carp (white amur), Japanese weatherfish, ide, rudd, bitterling and tench are other exotics which could become established in Michigan waters and compete with native fish for food and living space. For this reason, eggs of fish of these species may not be imported.