

June 22, 1935

IDENTIFICATION OF SUNFISH FROM SCHOOLCRAFT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

On June 21 the Institute received a specimen of the Pumpkinseed from Stanley Shust, Superintendent of the State Fish Hatchery at Thompson, along with the following request:

To settle an argument we are shipping you by express today one pan fish caught in a near by lake here in schoolcraft county. We want to know if this fish is a sun fish or blue gill please address a copy of your findings to Mr. Leo Marlette Conservation Officer at Manistique, Mich.

The characters by which this fish was identified, and by which the Pumpkinseed and the Bluegill may always be distinguished, include the following conspicuous features:

	Pumpkinseed	Bluegill
Texture of ear flap (the dark process on gill covers)	Stiff to edge, clicking when snapped by fingernail	Very flexible, bending like a rag
Color of ear flap	With light edging, and with a conspicuous red spot	Blackish to edge, without red spot
Color of soft dorsal fin (the part of the back fin behind the spines)	With a number of small blackish spots	With one large smudgy blotch

The species are distinguished by numerous other characters, but those given up are sufficient, and easy to remember.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

Carl L. Hubbs
Director

cc: Fish Division
Stanley Shust
Leo Marlette