



69. RUDD / ROTFEDER (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*)

IDENTIFICATION: The rudd is similar to the roach in appearance and belongs to the cyprinid family. The body is hump-shaped and laterally compressed. The mouth is terminal. The scales on the belly between the pelvic and anal fins are keeled sharply. The front edge of the dorsal fin is located somewhat behind the base of the pelvic fins. Color variations are quite common. The back and upper part of the head are normally brown-green; the flanks are brassy tinge; and the belly silvery white. Fins are orange to bright red with a dark gray streak on the base. The iris is brassy to golden.

HABITAT: Rudd dwell in most fresh waters and in brackish waters, and frequently are found in schools. They thrive in ponds and lakes and in the sluggish reaches of streams and their backwaters. The rudd is a midwater or surface feeder and likes weedy areas.

FOOD:

- (1) **Diet:** Rudd eat water plants and insects falling into the water.
- (2) **Value:** Rudd and roach are rarely sought as table fare because the meat is bland and bony. In areas where they grow to a fair size, they are the main quarries of fishermen who lack better fishing resources. This is particularly true in industrial centers. Both species are used extensively as baitfish, especially for pike and river char.

SPAWNING: Rudd spawning period is from May to June.