

EURASIAN RUDD (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*)

**Oneida Lake Status:
Uncommon**



*A brightly-colored rudd
Sandra Rapp*

- Established population discovered in Oneida Lake in 1990
- Possibly introduced as a baitfish
- Bright red fins make it easy to identify

Rudd are a freshwater, omnivorous (eats both plants and animals) fish that are native to Eurasia. They were initially brought to the United States in the late 1800s or early 1900s. How and when rudd arrived in Oneida Lake is not known, but they were likely introduced as bait fish.



*Eurasian rudd illustration
<http://www.clawford.co.uk/coarse.htm>*

Rudd range in color from silver-gray to olive to orange with bright red-orange fins. Eyes range in color from pink to gold. In native habitats, rudd can grow to 14 inches, may weigh as much as 4 pounds, and can live up to 15 years.

Impacts that rudd may have on ecosystems are unknown. They are able to hybridize with the native golden shiner (*Notemigonus crysoleucas*), a popular bait fish in Oneida Lake. Rudd may also compete with native fish for invertebrate food sources. Because rudd are uncommon in Oneida Lake, their potential to negatively impact the ecosystem is low.



*A silvery-colored rudd
Noel Burkhead, USGS*

Prepared by:

Kristen Holeck and Ed Mills
Cornell Biological Field Station

January 2007