



75. CRUCIAN CARP / KARAU SCHE (*Carassius carassius*)

IDENTIFICATION: The crucian carp is related closely to the goldfish. The body is hump-shaped and compressed laterally. The head is relatively large. The dorsal fin is high and long, and its edge convex. The tail fin is forked slightly and frequently has a black blotch at the root. The back is usually olive green to muddy brown with an occasional bluish hue; the flanks brown-green with golden tints; and the belly yellow-white. Pectoral, pelvic and anal fins are dull red.

HABITAT: The crucian carp is a typical species in small ponds and sluggish, shallow canals and streams. They are hardy bottom feeders, and thrive in highly polluted waters. They are gregarious and stay in schools.

FOOD:

- (1) **Diet:** Crucian carp feed on small aquatic animals and vegetable matter.
- (2) **Value:** Crucian carp have little sport value and the meat is not very tasty.

SPAWNING: Crucian carp spawn from May to June. Large numbers mate in selected areas, but the mating act is an affair between only two or three fish. The courtship rite, accompanied by rolling and splashing, is audible and visible. The eggs are deposited on water plants in weedy shallows.