

***Iowa Outdoors***  
**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**  
**www.iowadnr.com**

Editor: Mick Klemesrud, 515/281-8653  
[mick.klemesrud@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:mick.klemesrud@dnr.state.ia.us)

\*\*\*\*\*

**June 22, 2004**

1. Cool, Wet Spring Impacting Iowa Pheasant Numbers
2. Fourth of July Holiday to Draw Many Campers to State Parks
3. Peregrine Falcons, Ospreys Rebound – by Joe Wilkinson [hold this story until 6-24, electronic photo available]
4. Nonresident Any Deer Permit Drawing Completed
5. Iowa Fishing Report

**COOL, WET SPRING IMPACTING IOWA PHEASANT NUMBERS**

DES MOINES - The Iowa pheasant population is waging a battle against a nasty cold, wet weather pattern that is causing some nests to wash out and newly hatched birds to die. The extent of the damage will be known later this summer during the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) August Roadside Survey, but early reports show that if the pheasant nested early, the newly hatched birds are doing okay. If the birds nested late, success is questionable, at best.

“This weather will have an impact on local communities economically, there is no question about it,” said Richard Bishop, chief of the DNR’s wildlife bureau.

Pheasant hunting is worth tens of millions of dollars to rural Iowa and predictions of fewer birds could impact nonresident hunters who traditionally come to Iowa. Flooding in the Iowa River Corridor really hit the pheasant population there hard. The corridor is a popular pheasant hunting destination for nonresident hunters.

“We need this weather to change. We need the rain to stop and for the temperatures to warm up. There is a chance for pheasants that have lost a nest to re-nest, so we could rebound somewhat, but we have to have a change in this weather pattern,” Bishop said.

The August Roadside Survey is driven by wildlife biologists and conservation officers across the state over the same 300 plus routes each year and is the best method to estimate the pheasant population. The results will be available around Sept. 15.

“The survey will show fewer birds than if we had dry weather for this nesting season, there is no question about that,” Bishop said. “Ironically, we were looking at the best spring we’ve had in 15 years.”

**For more information, contact Todd Bogenschutz, wildlife biologist for upland game, at 515-432-2823.**

###

## **FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY TO DRAW MANY CAMPERS TO STATE PARKS**

DES MOINES – State officials expect campgrounds in Iowa’s state parks to fill up quickly this Fourth of July weekend.

“Call ahead to check on campsite availability prior to driving to your destination,” recommends Jim Lawson, supervisor for the south central district. “Those willing to drive a little further from the metro areas will be rewarded with less congestion and a better choice of available camp sites.”

Many campgrounds are filled to capacity on the holiday weekends. Due to the crowded conditions and close proximity to "neighbors" campers need to be especially considerate of those around them.

Lawson said that although it is not illegal to possess fireworks in the state of Iowa, it is illegal to use them. “This includes in the state parks. Leave the fireworks to the professionals,” he said.

Beeds Lake, Lewis & Clark, Lake Manawa, and Lake of Three Fires are some of the parks this year that will be offering fireworks displays and other activities during the holiday weekend. Check the calendar of events at [www.exploreiowaparks.com](http://www.exploreiowaparks.com) for details.

Explore Iowa Parks is now in full swing. It is a popular camping program that gives campers a chance to enjoy Iowa’s state parks and earn prizes. The more parks camped in, the better the chances for prizes. The holiday weekend will bring many campers to the parks that can take advantage of this program. Entry forms are available in the parks or at state parks web site.

###

**[Hold This Column Until June 24]**

## **PEREGRINES FALCONS, OSPREYS REBOUND**

By Joe Wilkinson

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

From the outset, 'D-05' wasn't the least bit happy. Plucked from his nest, confined to a small dog kennel, he was now in the grip of two humans, poking him for a blood sample and clamping an aluminum band to his leg.

The four-week-old peregrine falcon cut loose a few more shrill cries before being set back in the kennel. His two brothers (now known as D-06 and D-07 like their bands) were next, protesting, too as wildlife officials banded and recorded vital information. Overhead, the chicks' mother screeched back and swooped around the American Republic Building in downtown Des Moines. Her mate circled at a higher altitude. Checkups over, the chicks were taken back to the roof, lowered over the side and set back into their nest. Still, the female buzzed the rooftop, until after the intruders departed.

Iowa counts nine falcon territories this year. Not all are listed as active nests but have adult falcons displaying nesting and territorial tendencies, if not fledging young. They range from rooftop nests—actually just gravel scrapes on a flat ledge—to the undersides of bridges, and the crowning achievement of the recovery; high on the bluffs over the Mississippi River at Lansing and Waukon Junction. "We are excited that the falcon population has branched back to the historic eyries, nesting along the cliffs in northeast Iowa," exclaims Pat Schlarlbaum, with the Department of Natural Resources wildlife diversity program. He has been involved in the falcon recovery program since 1989, when the first birds were released on rooftops in Cedar Rapids, then Muscatine and Mason City.

The urban skyline resembles a cliff-type setting falcons would see in the wild, but with far fewer great horned owls...mortal enemies of the falcon. Original plans called for the birds to pioneer sites in Iowa City, the Quad Cities, and eventually return to their historic territories; the craggy bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River and the palisades and outcrops above the Cedar and other inland rivers. However, it was not until the Iowa Peregrine Falcon Recovery Team formed in 1995, that birds were first placed--and eventually came back to nest--on the bluffs, that the recovery program came full circle.

Though observers marvel over the aerial acrobatics of this winged bird of prey—it has been clocked at 260 miles an hour when in a dive after prey—the return is more an environmental victory than anything. Widespread use of DDT as a pest control chemical caused the extirpation of North American peregrines east of the Mississippi River, a half century ago. Their fate mirrored that of the bald eagle. A buildup of DDT in their food was passed along to the birds and to their eggs in the form of paper-thin shells that prevented young from hatching for decades.

That history was part of Schlarbaum's presentation, as he banded the Des Moines chicks a few days ago, prompting a young man in his 20s to ask what DDT is. "That question itself underlines why it is important to tell people about the dangers of environmental contamination," stresses Schlarbaum. "Not just as it affects peregrines, but our whole environment. (In the 1970s), that danger led to the Endangered Species Act, and eventually to the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act. We have an entire generation now that is removed from the perils of DDT. These peregrines are biological indicators. It is imperative for us to speak out."

Whether screeching through downtown concrete canyons or limestone bluffs on the river, the falcons are doing just that.

### **Sidebar: Survival in the Wild Always Tough**

Fledged in Cedar Rapids 14 years ago, '64-T'--Des Moines' resident male falcon, has become the patriarch of Iowa's slowly growing peregrine population. His first mate died a couple years ago, replaced by a younger female. They have produced 27 young since 1993 from the gravelly alcoves near the top of the six-story building. That places 64-T in the 'top ten' through the Midwest and Canada as biologists and conservation enthusiasts watch the falcon recovery take root and grow. Across the Midwest in 2003, 144 pairs were documented, raising 352 young.

Falcon survival, as well as that of all wildlife species, is low during their first year. That is underscored again this summer. Two of four chicks hatched in Cedar Rapids this year have died. Young in the wild nest at Lansing were lost this summer, probably due to northeast Iowa deluges. The Waukon Junction pair includes a young female still sitting on eggs. Three young birds have been confirmed under the Centennial Bridge in the Quad Cities. Other sites have nests but unconfirmed chick counts, or adults defending territories, but no chicks confirmed yet. Peregrine coordinator Pat Schlarbaum, from the Department of Natural Resources, says that underscores the need to monitor the endangered (in Iowa) bird of prey.

### **Osprey Return Proceeds, Slowly**

Sometimes lost in the background of Iowa's raptor recovery is the osprey. That is probably because the osprey, or 'fish hawk' as it is sometimes called, is more a bird of large lakes. Still, early history indicates that some ospreys nested in Iowa. After several years of releases, young have been hatched along Iowa lakes and reservoirs. And like other wildlife species, recovery has been slow.

Three nests were documented this year; on Coralville Reservoir, on Lake Macbride and at Spirit Lake. The single osprey chick at Spirit Lake died. The nest on Coralville was blown down during heavy May wind and rain. Biologists are monitoring the Macbride nest, which shows adult birds tending a nest. To date, though, there is no word on eggs hatching or the condition of young birds there.

The recovery continues with not only continued monitoring, but release of birds at 'hack sites'. The Linn County Conservation Department has July targeted for bringing several young ospreys to its Wickiup Hill site, north of Cedar Rapids.

###

## **NONRESIDENT ANY DEER PERMIT DRAWING COMPLETED**

DES MOINES – The drawing for nonresident Iowa any deer permits is finished and the results are available on the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' website at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com).

A record 12,166 nonresident hunters applied for the 6,000 any deer permits. Hunters who were unsuccessful will receive one preference point toward a future drawing.

Although there was a record number of applicants, a few any deer permits remain. There are six any deer permits available in Zone 2, and seven any deer permits in Zone 3. These permits will go on sale at 6 a.m. July 3 and will remain available until sold out. These remaining permits can only be purchased on the Iowa DNR's website or by calling 1-800-367-1188.

The nonresident bow quota for all zones and seasons was filled through the drawing.

Nonresidents who have landowner preference may order antlerless-only deer permits beginning July 3.

Starting July 17, nonresident antlerless-only deer permits will be available until the quotas are filled or the last day the licenses are valid, whichever comes first.

A nonresident any deer permit costs \$220.50 and a nonresident antlerless-only deer permit costs \$150.50. Hunters will also need a hunting license and to pay the habitat fee. A nonresident hunting license for hunters 18 years old and older is \$80.50; younger than 18 is \$30.50. The habitat fee is \$8.50.



# ***IOWA FISHING REPORT***

**For the week of June 22, 2004**

**www.iowadnr.com**

For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

## **Southeast**

**Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19:** Fishing on the Mississippi River has been fair. The water temperature at Muscatine on Pool 16 is 72 degrees and the river pool stage is 16.95 and is expected to rise throughout the week. Pools 17 to 19 are above flood levels. Fishing conditions will be difficult on these pools with water levels at or above flood levels. On **Pool 16** the Harbor area at Davenport and Sunset Marina near Rock Island continue to be fair for walleye and sauger on crankbaits and jigs. White bass and walleye are also being caught in the tailwaters below Dam 15. Catfish have been good on leeches and night crawlers at the Harbor Road area and in flooded creeks and backwaters of the river. Anglers are also getting a few bluegill and crappie in the Harbor Road area. A few flathead catfish are also being caught. **Pools 16 to 19** continue to be good for channel catfish on night crawlers, leeches and various baits. Look for catfish close to shore in slower shallow flooded areas and backed up stream and creek channels, in backwater areas, and near drift piles on the main river. Bullhead fishing has been fair in the backwater areas. Anglers still continue to catch a few bluegill and crappie in the backwater areas on bobber rigs and jigs tipped with minnows or worms. **Pool 19 and tailwaters below dam 19** have been good for walleye and sauger on jig and minnows and crankbaits.

**Lake Odessa (Louisa):** Fishing continues to be good for catfish and bullheads and fair for crappies and bluegills. The levee is still holding but the Mississippi is keeping the lake from being drawn down. The Toolesboro road below the Burris ditch ramp is closed so no access to the Mississippi River from there. There are also a lot of powerboats on the lake because of the condition of the river.

**Lake Darling (Washington):** Crappies have moved to deeper water. The catfish are really starting to bite now, especially in the morning hours. The current favorite baits are chicken liver and stink bait. There are also quite nice 7-plus inch bluegills on the shallow flats spawning now. The old worm and bobber will yield some nice stringers of bluegills.

**Lake Geode (Henry):** Bluegill fishing has been good to excellent depending on the weather with fish up to 10 inches being caught. Channel catfish fishing is starting to pick up near the dam.

**Lake Belva Deer (Keokuk):** Bluegill fishing has been excellent. Slowly working a jig and worm or a worm and bobber in the four to six foot range will yield some nice 9 to 10-inch fish. The water is very clear so keep a low profile and noise to a minimum. Anglers are catching good numbers of the 10 to 12-inch bass and there are also some legal 15-inch fish being caught.

**Lake Rathbun** (Appanoose): Walleyes have been hitting on crankbaits or night crawlers trolled or drifted around rocky points and underwater islands. Channel catfish have been biting on night crawlers and chicken liver. The Bridgeview area has been very productive for catches of channel catfish. Crappies are still being caught, but they are a little harder to locate because they have moved out into deeper water.

**Lake Sugema** (Van Buren): Largemouth bass have been hitting on artificial lures. Evenings and mornings have been the most productive times. Bluegills have been hitting on small jigs tipped with a chunk of night crawler.

**Lake Miami** (Monroe): Crappies and bluegills have been biting on small jigs. The areas of standing timber have been the most productive. Channel catfish have been biting on chicken liver.

**Lake Wapello** (Davis): Largemouth bass have been hitting on a variety of artificial lures. Channel catfish have been biting on liver. Bluegills have been hitting small jigs fished around the lily pads.

**Lake Macbride** (Johnson): Crappie fishing has been fair on small jigs tipped with small minnows or wax worms. Anglers also report a few walleyes being caught.

**Coralville Reservoir** (Johnson): Water levels remain high and the only open ramp is at Mehaffey Bridge. Some channel catfish are being caught in the 700 Acres area on dead shad.

**Pleasant Creek** (Linn): Bluegill and perch fishing is good on worms and leeches. Walleyes are being taken on a slip-bobber and a leech or trolling crankbaits. Some channel catfish are being caught on live/dead bait on the bottom. Large white bass are being caught on live bait as well as artificial. Largemouth bass fishing has been excellent using night crawlers around the jetties or artificial baits elsewhere in the lake. Remember there is an 18-inch minimum length limit on largemouth at Pleasant Creek.

**Kent Park Lake** (Johnson): Fishing is good for 10 to 14-inch bass, and bluegills continue to be caught on worms. The channel catfish bite is good to excellent, especially towards dark.

**Diamond Lake** (Poweshiek): Fishing is good for channel catfish on night crawlers and bluegills on small worms. Look for the bluegills around structure and on the weed lines.

**Hannen Lake** (Benton): Bluegills are being caught around brush on small worms. Channel catfish are being caught on stink bait. Some 12 to 16-inch bass are also being caught on various lures/baits.

**Rodgers Lake** (Benton): The channel catfish are biting on stink bait and bluegills are being taken on worms. A few 12 to 16-inch largemouth bass are also being caught.

**Union Grove Lake**, Union Grove State Park (Tama): Channel catfish are being caught on stink bait and chicken liver.

**For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.**

### **Northeast**

**Mississippi River Pools 9 to 15:** The Mississippi River at Guttenberg is 70 degrees and the water is cloudy from recent rains and high water events. The gates remain open at **Lock & Dam 9** and **10**. Water levels have crested on the Mississippi and should slowly drop throughout the week. Please be aware that most boat ramps are under

water and access to the Mississippi is quite restricted. Bluegill and white bass are being taken on small jigs or worms on a hook fished in the tailwater areas at **Lock & Dam 10** (Guttenberg). Freshwater drum and channel catfish are biting along rocky shorelines and flooded islands throughout **Pools 9 to 11**. Channel catfish are biting in **Pools 12 to 15** in the flooded timber. Use leeches, night crawlers, shrimp or cheese baits. Largemouth bass are hitting spinner baits fished in the clearer, dead-end backwater sloughs in **Pools 12 to 15**. Bluegills are also biting on night crawlers in the backwater sloughs in **Pools 12 to 15**. For best results on bluegill and largemouth bass fishing, find the clearest water and fish along the flooded grass lines.

The **Upper Iowa** (Winneshiek and Allamakee), **Turkey** (Clayton) and the upper stretches of the **Cedar River** (Mitchell and Floyd) are still up, but should be fishable by the middle of the week...weather permitting.

**Maquoketa River** (Delaware): Channel catfish are biting on night crawlers and minnows.

**Lake Delhi** (Delaware): Crappie fishing is good using minnows in the shallows along the rocks or around docks. Bluegill and white bass (stripers) are also good on night crawlers and minnows.

**Casey Lake** (Tama): Channel catfish are biting on liver, night crawlers and stink baits.

**Meyer Lake** (Winneshiek): Bluegill fishing is excellent using a small piece of worm fished under a bobber. Largemouth bass are hitting plastic worms. Some channel catfish and crappies are also being taken.

**Volga Lake** (Fayette): Bluegill fishing is excellent on a piece of night crawler. Crappie fishing is fair on jig and minnows. A few channel catfish have also been caught along the dam.

**Lake Hendricks** (Howard): Bluegill fishing is excellent on red worms fished under a bobber. Crappie fishing is fair on minnows or small jigs. Largemouth bass are hitting plastic worms.

**Big Woods and South Prairie Lakes** (Black Hawk): Bluegill fishing is good using wax worms, red worms or pieces of a night crawler. Largemouth bass are also biting well.

Coldwater trout streams on small watersheds are the first streams to recover after high water events. While river fishing has been challenging this spring due to frequent rains, trout fishing has offered anglers ample opportunities to enjoy the beauty of fishing in northeast Iowa. **Big Spring Pond** is an excellent area to introduce children to trout fishing. This pond, located near the entrance of Big Spring Hatchery northwest of Elkader, offers children the opportunity to practice casting and the possibility of reeling in a rainbow, brown or brook trout. For current trout stocking information on northeast Iowa trout streams, call the trout stocking hotline at 563-927-5736. You can also access the trout stocking calendar through the internet at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com) and go to the fish and fishing web pages.

**For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.**

## Northwest

**Spirit Lake** (Dickinson): The walleye bite continues to be good. Anglers can find fish in 12 to 18 feet of water. Minnows and leeches are still preferred live baits. Crankbaits are also catching fish. Fish can be found in Angler's Bay and off Buffalo Run and Big Stoney Point. Many fish are below the length limit of 14 inches but limits can be taken and many fish over 20 inches were caught this weekend. Anglers are reminded that only one fish over 20 inches may be kept on the Iowa Great Lakes. Smallmouth bass fishing is good from Big Stoney Point down to Rednose Point. Slip bobbers with a leech or jig and leech can be an excellent presentation for these fish. Largemouth bass fishing is good. Anglers can expect to find fish close to docks and in Angler's Bay near the reeds. Try using plastic worms or top-water lures on the edges. Yellow perch fishing is still slow but some anglers are starting to catch perch while fishing for walleyes.

**West Okoboji** (Dickinson): Walleye fishing is slow during the day. Fish the weed clumps, when you find them, with a rig tipped with a night crawler or leech. Slip bobbers are also producing some fish. Night fishing has slowed but fish can be caught on crankbaits. Smallmouth bass action is good over the rock piles. Remember the 15-inch minimum length. Good numbers of northern pike are being caught along the weedlines.

**East Okoboji** (Dickinson): Anglers are sorting through sub-legal walleyes for keeper-sized fish. There is good bluegill action in the trees on the north end. A small jig and bobber work as good as anything.

**Silver Lake** (Dickinson): Walleye fishing is good. Larger fish are biting best from midnight on using crankbaits or fishing from shore using a lighted bobber tipped with a minnow. For larger fish, try using a chub.

**Twelve Mile Lake** (Emmet): Bullhead fishing is good.

**Little Sioux River** (Clay): Anglers are still having success for channel catfish fishing the snags in several sections of the river. Use stink baits.

**Little Sioux River** (Clay): Anglers are still catching catfish in several stretches of the Little Sioux River on prepared stink baits fished in the snags.

**Lake Pahoja** (Lyon): Fish surveys show excellent numbers of keeper-sized channel catfish are available in this consistently good fishing lake. The latest reports are of superb fishing, mainly in the evening using traditional baits. Anglers serious about catfish should not miss out. Lake Pahoja participates in the DNR's caged catfish program that has provided fish for excellent cat angling year after year. Anglers are also catching small crappies.

**Rock River** (Lyon): Catfish has been good using traditional baits.

**Big Sioux River** (Lyon and Sioux): Channel catfish are good.

**Lost Island** (Clay and Palo Alto): Some walleyes are being caught during the daylight hours, but the best action will come during the twilight and nighttime. For best action, search out walleyes with crankbaits.

**Five Island** (Palo Alto): Walleye fishing is good during the day trolling crankbaits or spinners.

**Willow Creek** (Osceola): Anglers are catching largemouth bass on buzzbaits, plastic worms and plastic frogs. Anglers are encouraged to practice catch and release.

**Mill Creek** (O'Brien): Largemouth bass can be caught using top-water lures and weedless lures. Cast into open pockets of vegetation.

**Dog Creek (O'Brien):** Fishing has been red hot for 7 to 9-inch bullheads. Anglers are catching fish by the buckets full.

**Storm Lake (Buena Vista):** Channel catfish are fair to good using night crawlers, leeches and shad entrails. Anglers are catching some walleyes and white bass by trolling crankbaits.

**Black Hawk Lake (Sac):** Channel catfish fishing is good on a variety of baits. Walleyes are starting to bite on leeches.

**Arrowhead Lake (Sac):** Bluegills are biting on small jigs tipped with night crawlers.

**Brushy Creek (Webster):** Bluegill fishing is best in shallow water. Walleyes are biting on leeches in 10 to 20 feet of water. Bass are close to shore in the rocks. Crappies are hard to find, but a few are being caught on small jigs tipped with a minnow.

**Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo):** Yellow bass fishing is fair around Dodge's Point and the Island. Use small jigs and minnows casting into the shoreline. Walleye fishing is fair using live bait and spinners or trolling crankbaits. The north shoreline has been the best for walleye. Remember the 14-inch minimum length limit. Bullhead fishing is good using night crawlers on the bottom. Channel catfish are hitting on chicken liver and dead chubs.

**Rice Lake (Worth and Winnebago):** Bullhead fishing is good using night crawlers on the windy shorelines.

**Silver Lake (Worth):** Bullhead fishing is good using night crawlers. Yellow perch are being caught on minnows off the fishing jetty.

**For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.**

### **Southwest**

**Three Mile (Union):** Channel catfish are being caught with night crawlers or cut baits. Crappies are moving out to 8 to 10 feet of water. Bluegills are biting on night crawlers or wax worms in shallow areas. Largemouth bass and walleye fishing is good all over the lake.

**Twelve Mile (Union):** Fishing for channel catfish is good using night crawlers or liver. Walleyes are being caught using leeches.

**Icaria (Adams):** Fishing is good for catfish using night crawlers, cut bait and liver.

**Green Valley (Union):** Crappies are being caught over structure in 8 to 10 feet of water. Some nice bluegill can be caught in the shallows with night crawlers or wax worms. Channel catfish can be caught in the bays using night crawlers.

**Little River (Decatur):** Crappies are biting over rocks or in flooded trees in 8 to 10 feet of water. Catfish can be caught in the bays using liver or night crawlers.

**Slip Bluff (Decatur):** Channel catfish are being caught in the bays.

**West Lake Osceola (Clarke):** Bluegill and largemouth bass fishing is excellent in the timbered coves and along the dam. Crappies are in 8 to 10 feet of water in the flooded trees

**Old Corning (Adams):** Bluegills are biting well off the dam and in the bays on night crawlers or wax worms.

**Fogle Lake** (Ringgold): Crappies can be caught in the flooded trees. Some bluegill can be caught off the west shore and in the west bay. The lake is currently being lowered to improve fish growth but is still good for fishing.

**Walnut Creek Marsh** (Ringgold): Bluegill and crappie can be caught along the south shore and around the jetties.

**Windmill Lake** (Taylor): Bluegills can be caught with night crawlers in the shallows.

**Big Creek** (Polk): Crappie fishing is still slow, although some fish are being taken in deeper water. Bluegill fishing is slow to fair with bluegill 8 inches or larger available. Channel catfish fishing has picked up using traditional baits. A few largemouth bass have been caught using casting plugs, although most remain below the legal length limit.

**Lake Ahquabi** (Warren): Bluegill and redear sunfish fishing has been good using jigs with worms or bobbers, with some anglers doing well using twister tails. Largemouth bass fishing has been good, with some fish caught with top water lures.

**Hooper Lake** (Warren): Bluegill fishing has been good using worms and jigs. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair to good.

**Don Williams** (Boone): Crappie fishing is good using minnows and jigs in shallow water along shore. Bluegill fishing is good with some nice fish reported. Channel catfish fishing is good using night crawlers and cut baits toward the north end of the lake. Largemouth bass fishing has been good on surface plugs and crankbaits.

**Rock Creek Lake** (Jasper): Crappie fishing is good using night crawlers or minnows and jigs, although fish have moved to deeper water. Channel catfish are working the shoreline and fishing is good using night crawlers. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair using jigs and casting lures.

**Red Rock** (Marion): Crappie, usually 10 inches or larger, and white bass have been hitting on jigs and minnows in the bays and coves, however fishing has slowed over the past week with the higher water levels. Channel catfish fishing has improved, with the better areas in the bays and coves using night crawlers and worms.

**Red Rock tailwater** (Marion): Crappie and white bass fishing has been fair in the tailwater using jigs and minnows. Channel catfish fishing has improved with the increase in water levels.

**Roberts Creek** (Marion): Crappie fishing has been fair using jigs with minnows and/or night crawlers and channel catfish have been hitting on night crawlers.

**Easter Lake** (Polk): fishing has been fair for 8 to 9-inch crappie and bluegill using jigs and minnows. A few walleyes have been caught while crappie fishing. Channel catfish fishing has picked up with most caught on stink baits. Largemouth bass is fair.

**Saylorville Lake** (Polk): White bass and crappie fishing has been slow in the marina area. The reservoir is high and turbid. There is considerable floating debris and boaters need to be extra cautious on the reservoir.

**Hickory Grove** (Story): Bluegill fishing has improved. Largemouth bass fishing is fair to good using top water buzzbaits. Crappie and channel catfish fishing is good.

**Viking** (Montgomery): Crappie fishing is excellent around aerators. Bluegill fishing has slowed with a few fish still being caught on spawning beds near shore.

Channel catfish fishing is good using night crawlers or liver. Largemouth bass fishing has picked up in the evening around structure.

**Cold Springs** (Cass): Fishing is good for crappies around aerators. Channel catfish fishing is good.

**Manawa** (Pottawattamie): Fishing is excellent for channel catfish on Boy Scout Island. A few crappies are being caught in the lagoon. Walleyes are being caught on west shore along rocks.

**Orient** (Adair): Channel catfish fishing is good.

**Mormon Trail** (Adair): Walleye fishing is good using crankbaits or jigs. The 7 to 9-inch crappies have moved away from shore and to 6 to 8 feet of water. Fishing is good for largemouth bass and bluegills. Channel catfish are good using night crawlers or liver.

**Prairie Rose** (Shelby): Fishing is good for 7-inch crappies in 6 to 8 feet of water using jigs and minnows around rocks and woody structure. Bass fishing is good. Anglers are catching channel catfish on liver. Fishing is good bluegills near shore.

**Manteno** (Shelby): Bluegill fishing is good around points near shore.

**DeSoto Bend** (Harrison): Walleye and crappie fishing is fair. Walleyes being harvested are 15 to 16 inches. Anglers also are catching good numbers of largemouth bass. Carp are being caught near shore.

**Littlefield Lake** (Audubon): Fishing is good for large bluegills near shore. Channel catfish fishing is excellent.

**Southwest Iowa Farm Ponds**: Bluegill and largemouth bass fishing is excellent. A lot of bluegill can be caught using crawlers. Remember to ask permission and clean up after yourself.

**For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.**

###