

# Illinois GAME & FISH

## YOUR GUIDE TO ILLINOIS CRAPPIES

Where & How To Score

### PRAIRIE STATE BASS FORECAST

- *Statewide Hotspots!*
- *Early-Season Tactics*



Survey, Emerald Lake (500 acres), Lake Marie (480 acres), Bluff Lake (167 acres), Grass Lake (1,360 acres), Fox Lake (1,700 acres), Nippersink Lake (420 acres), and Pistakee Lake (1,700 acres).

Water levels fluctuate in the channels this month causing movement of the fish. Still, they relate to bottom structure on the points. Current fishing information is available at Triangle Sports (847-395-0813).

#### **CLINTON LAKE**

When it comes to crappie fishing, this 5,000-acre reservoir ranks near the top of the list. It is 10 miles east of Clinton, in DeWitt County.

The heated discharge of water from the power plant affects fish movement and spawning, according to the IDNR.

#### **LAKE BLOOMINGTON**

Historically, white crappies were the predominant species in this 635-acre reservoir in McLean County. Located 10 miles north of Bloomington, it provides water to the city. Black crappies have increased to a point where neither species is dominant. IDNR surveys show good numbers of 10- to 11-inch fish of both species in the lake at this time.

Local bait shops and Larry Dozard's online site at [www.Larrysfishinghole.com](http://www.Larrysfishinghole.com) are good sources of current information as to where they are biting.

#### **CRAB ORCHARD LAKE**

Located on the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, 4 miles west of Marion in Williamson County, is

Although there is a 25 fish creel limit, not more than 10 of them can be over 10-inches in length. Both black crappies and white crappies are present. The average weight of the fish is 1/2 to 1 1/2 pounds. Crappies in these classes are 10 to 14 inches. There is another year-class of 8- to 10-inch fish present in abundance, which bodes well for the future. White crappies over 2 pounds are caught occasionally.

Rend Lake is an 18,900-acre U.S. Corps of Engineers reservoir formed by the damming of Big Muddy and Casey Fork rivers. It stretches across Franklin and Jefferson counties near Whittington. Lake information is available from the Corps offices located at the dam on the south end of Rend Lake. □