



Songbird Lake

2021 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Songbird Lake is located at the Songbird Slough Forest Preserve on Mill Road, 1.5 miles north of Lake Street (Rt. 20) in Itasca.

DESCRIPTION – Songbird Lake is a 15 acre excavated addition to Songbird Slough with a maximum depth of 19 feet and an average depth of 8.5 feet. The northern side of the lake is open to fishing but the southern portion (wetland) serves as a bird sanctuary. Songbird Lake is one of 30 lakes and ponds owned and maintained for sport fishing by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPDDC). There is limited shoreline fishing access available via mowed paths around the preserve. The FPDDC has installed several fish attracting structures in this lake (see locations on bathymetric map on the reverse side of this summary).

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: These waters are under management of the FPDDC Fishery Ecologist to provide quality sport fishing opportunities. In 1984, the FPDDC entered into a cooperative management agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to facilitate management activities. The 2014 survey found an overabundance of Yellow Bass. To combat this, Northern Pike, Largemouth Bass and Channel Catfish are stocked regularly. Common Carp are also overabundant. Six active removal efforts of Carp and Yellow Bass have occurred since 2018 removing over 1,100 pounds of Carp and over 525 Yellow Bass (individuals). Removal efforts will continue on an annual or bi-annual basis as an experimental project. Further summarization of this data is in the works.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Largemouth Bass and Bluegill abundance improved slightly since 2018, but are still rated as poor. A few quality sized Largemouth Bass are available they are just few and far between. The fishery is best for Common Carp and Yellow Bass right now – and those fish should be harvested.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – Twenty-four Largemouth Bass were sampled in 70 minutes of electrofishing. We like to see this number closer to a fish a minute. The largest bass sampled was 17.4 inches. Adult bass from other area lakes have been stocked and active removals of carp and Yellow Bass should improve this lake in the future. Our electrofishing sample may have under-estimated the bass population due to the large portion of the lake that is designated as a bird sanctuary. The inaccessible, shallow marshy bird sanctuary may be more desirable to spawning bass than the areas we could sample.

BLUEGILL – Bluegill were captured at a rate of 66 fish per hour. This is a very low catch rate for Bluegill. We like to see at least 120 fish per hour in a healthy Bluegill population. The largest Bluegill measured 6.3 inches. The low catch rate and small size in Bluegill may be due to explosion of the Yellow Bass population as well as nest destruction from Common Carp.

CHANNEL CATFISH – Channel Catfish were present in the sample. Two Channel Catfish measuring 16.4 and 19.3 inches.

COMMON CARP – Common Carp are abundant in Songbird Lake. Carp ranged in length from 14.6 to 23.2 inches. Common carp dislodge vegetation and cloud the water with their feeding behavior of “rooting” through the substrate. Unlimited harvest is encouraged for this detrimental species.

YELLOW BASS – Seventy-four Yellow Bass were caught in 70 minutes of electrofishing. They ranged in length from 5.0 to 6.5 inches. This species can reach nuisance levels very quickly without a proper predator population. They compete with many life stages of other fish and when over-abundant, they rarely reach harvestable sizes. Anglers should harvest all Yellow Bass they catch.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Northern Pike, Black and White Crappie, Golden Shiner and Fathead Minnows are also present in the lake.

Songbird Lake Survey – May 13th, 2021 – 70 minutes D.C. Electrofishing

Species	Number Collected	Length (Inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Bluegill	77	2.0	6.3	4.5	0.0	0.2
Yellow Bass	74	5.0	6.5	5.8	0.1	0.1
Common Carp	62	14.6	23.2	18.9		
Largemouth Bass	24	4.9	17.4	10.2	0.1	3.1
Green Sunfish	4	3.8	5.2	4.5		
Black Crappie	2	5.1	10.0	7.6	0.5	0.5
Channel Catfish	2	16.4	19.3	17.8	1.3	2.6
White Crappie	2	7.7	11.0	9.4	0.2	0.6
Yellow Bullhead	2	6.9	11.4	9.2	0.2	0.7
# of fish collected	249					

Sportfishing Regulations - *new in 2017

Two pole and line fishing only.

***Largemouth Bass** – 14-18-inch protected slot limit; 4 fish daily creel limit with 3 fish that can be harvested under 14 inches and 1 fish longer than 18 inches.

***Bluegill** – No minimum length limit; 25 fish daily creel limit.

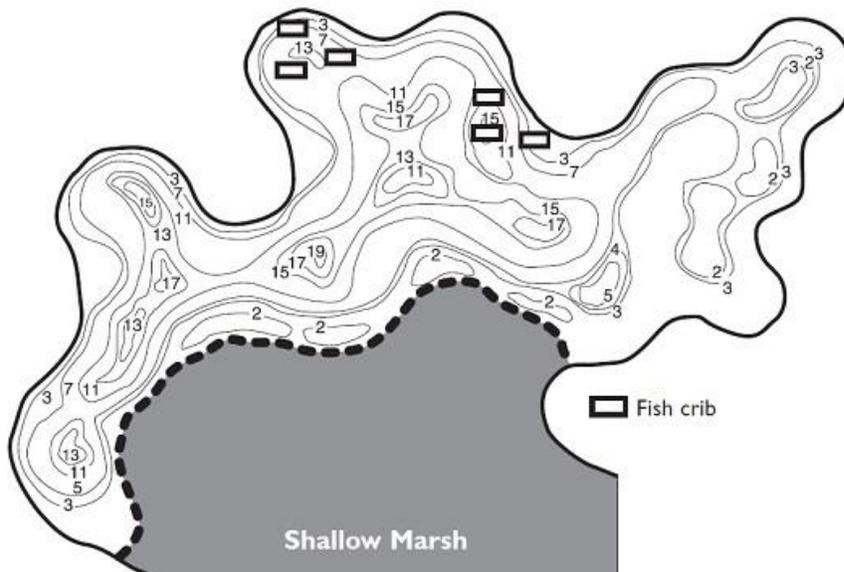
Channel Catfish – 12-inch minimum length limit; 3 fish daily creel limit.

***White and Black Crappie**– No minimum length limit; 15 fish daily creel limit.

***Yellow perch** – 9-inch minimum length limit; 5 fish daily creel limit.

Northern Pike – 24-inch minimum length limit; 3 fish daily creel limit (statewide regulation).

Channel Catfish – 12-inch minimum length limit; 3 fish daily creel limit.



This map courtesy of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County - "Fishing in Dupage County"

-For more information or if you have questions call the District's Fisheries Ecologist Dan Grigas at (630) 933-7668 or IDNR Fisheries at (815) 675-2386 ext. 214 or go to: www.dupageforest.org

-For general information on fishing in Illinois visit the IDNR Fisheries Division at: www.ifishillinois.org AND purchase your fishing license online at: www.dnr.illinois.gov