

Tom Nigus (5)

- Franklin's Gulls first seen on 31 March 1978 on Mud Lake.
- Forster's Terns and Black Terns (in abundance) arrived in the first week of May to IGLR.
- 1 Caspian Tern seen at Virgin Lake, Palo Alto Co. on 14 May 1978.
- First Eastern Phoebe seen near Ingham Lake on 3 April 1978.
- First Yellow Warblers arrived in good numbers at Smith's Slough, Clay Co. during the second week of May.
- First Bobolinks arrived in fair numbers to Dewey's Pasture, Clay Co. on 14 May 1978.
- First Yellow-headed Blackbirds seen near Ingham Lake on 7 April 1978. Are abundant on IGLR marshes with broad stands of emergent vegetation.

Nigus

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Tom Nigus Ames, Iowa

SPRING OBSERVATIONS 1978 - Northwest Iowa

Ingham Lake - Emmet Co.

High Lake - Emmet Co.

Trumbull Lake - Clay Co.

Mud Lake - Clay Co.

Iowa Great Lakes Region (IGLR)

- 1 Eared Grebe on High Lake on 22 May 1978.
- Pied-billed Grebes first seen on 1 April 1978 at Mud Lake.
- White Pelicans - 35 on Trumbull Lake on 1 April 1978; 32 on Ingham Lake on 12 April 1978; 30 on Lost Island Lake, Clay Co. on 13 May 1978.
- Double-crested Cormorant - 8 at Ingham Lake on 3 April 1978. Single cormorants seen occasionally in IGLR during April and May.
- Canada Geese arrived at Ingham Lake on 15 March 1978

Tom Nigus (2)

- White-fronted Geese - 2 first seen High Lake on 24 March 1978. Peak of 500 seen at Mud Lake on 31 March 1978.
- First Wood Duck seen on Virgin Lake, Palo Alto Co. on 23 March 1978. First Wood Duck brood seen High Lake on 22 May 1978.
- Peak of Canvasbacks occurred on 9 April 1978 with 57 seen near High Lake.
- Hooded Merganser pair at Trumbull Lake on 22 March 1978
- Peak of Common Mergansers on 27 March 1978 with 39 on High Lake.
- Peak of Red-breasted Mergansers on 12 April 1978 with 6 seen on Ingham Lake.
- First Ruddy Ducks appeared near High Lake on 27 March 1978.
- 1 Turkey Vulture seen over Fort Defiance State Park, Emmet Co. on 15 April 1978.

Tom Nigus (3)

- Sharp-shinned Hawks were occasionally seen in IGLR during the first 2 weeks of April.
- Marsh Hawks (Northern Harrier) were common during April but very rare in late May after the migration.
- Bald Eagle - 1 on Trumbull Lake and 1 on West Swan Lake in Emmet Co. both seen on 1 April 1978 (both immatures).
- Osprey - 1 at Ingham Lake on 6-7 April 1978; 1 at Lost Island Lake, Clay Co. and 1 at High Lake, both on 19 April 1978; 1 at Ingham Lake on 8 May 1978.
- American Kestrels were very common in IGLR during the first 3 weeks of April. Are very rare in May.
- Great Blue Herons first seen near Ingham Lake on 3 April 1978.
- First Great Egret seen near Ingham Lake on 12 April 1978; 4 seen on Ingham Lake 2 May 1978.
- Larry Kropf sighted 1 Cattle Egret near Ingham Lake on 29 April 1978.

Tom Nigrus (4)

- 1 Little Blue Heron seen at Virgin Lake, Palo Alto Co. on 11 May 1978
 - First Green Heron seen at West Swan Lake, Emmet Co. on 4 May 1978.
 - First Black-crowned Night Heron seen near Ingham Lake on 4 April 1978.
 - American Bitterns are fairly common in IGLR marshes with good water levels and abundant emergent vegetation. (A comeback from last year?)
 - Heard first Sora near Ingham Lake on 22 April 1978. They are common in most IGLR marshes this year.
 - 4 American Avocets at Dan Green Slough, Clay Co. on 11 May 1978.
- (Other dates and numbers of shorebirds are being kept on a phenology chart to be completed 30 June.)
- Ring-billed Gulls arrived in fair numbers IGLR on 28 March 1978.