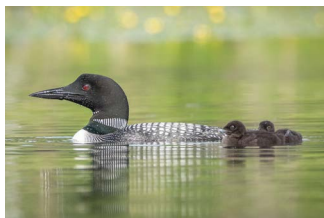


TIPS FOR LOON-SAFE BOATING

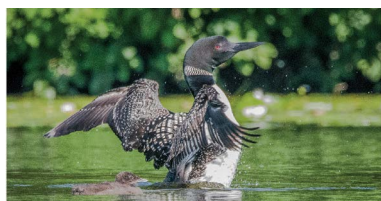


Death from collision with a watercraft is one of the most common causes of loon deaths.

- Please stay at least 200 feet away from loons, if possible.
- Always assume loons will not dive out of your way! Chicks can't dive or get out of the way of boats. Adults won't dive when protecting chicks.
- **SPEED KILLS!** Watch ahead and go slow near adult loons and chicks, especially outside no wake zones where loons rear their chicks.
- Use caution when jet skiing near loons. They can't anticipate the high speed and sudden changes of direction of jet skis.
- Do not separate loon families by boating between them. Loon parents are unable to protect chicks when separated.
- Do not pursue loons. Let them decide how close to come to your watercraft.
- When pulling tubers, wake-boarders, or skiers do not allow them to get close to or separate loon families.
- Do not feed loons! Loons will start chasing baited hooks and this will endanger their lives.
- Please use lead-free tackle - one lead sinker or jig can kill a loon. Do not cast towards loons. Please move spots if loons are near.
- Please keep broken fishing line out of the water, and pick it up so loons do not become entangled.



Loon chick in late summer.



When threatened, adults will lift their body out of the water, flap their wings, and issue a tremolo call. This means, "Stay away!" If you see this display, please immediately leave the area.



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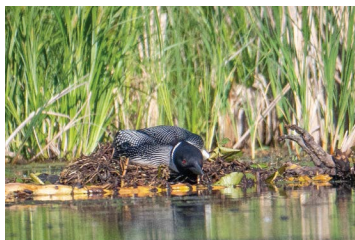
Remember, the best way to observe loons is at a distance with binoculars.

TIPS FOR LOON-SAFE BOATING

NEAR NESTING LOONS May and June

The Common Loon is Minnesota's state bird. We have many nesting pairs on the Gull Chain of Lakes. Loons typically return to their nesting territories as soon as the ice is out, and they are on the nest in May and June. While you are boating, we hope you enjoy observing the loons.

Please follow these loon-safe boating tips to protect our loons while you enjoy your day on the lake!



This posture means loon is threatened and you should move away



Artificial Nesting Platform

- **Please stay at least 200 feet away from nesting loons so they do not abandon their nest.**

Nesting is a vulnerable time for loons.

- **Please keep your watercraft speed slow to keep wakes to a minimum near nesting sites.**

Loons nest on natural nests which look like grassy mounds close to the water's edge or on floating vegetation, and on artificial nesting platforms. Nests can be washed out by wave action from boats and jet skis.

- **Please immediately back away if you see a loon in a head-down position.**

Normally a loon sits on the nest in a relaxed position with its head upright. A loon with its head craned forward or down senses a threat and may abandon the nest, leaving the eggs to be taken by a predator or destroyed by chilling or overheating. Loons need to incubate their eggs for 26 to 29 days.

If you see a sick or injured loon, call Sheila Johnston, 612 226-6571 or Julie Hepburn, 816 516-0759
For dead loons, call National Loon Center, 218-692-5666

**Thank you for protecting our loons!
Please share this information with other boaters.**