

Iron County~ Woods and Waters Project



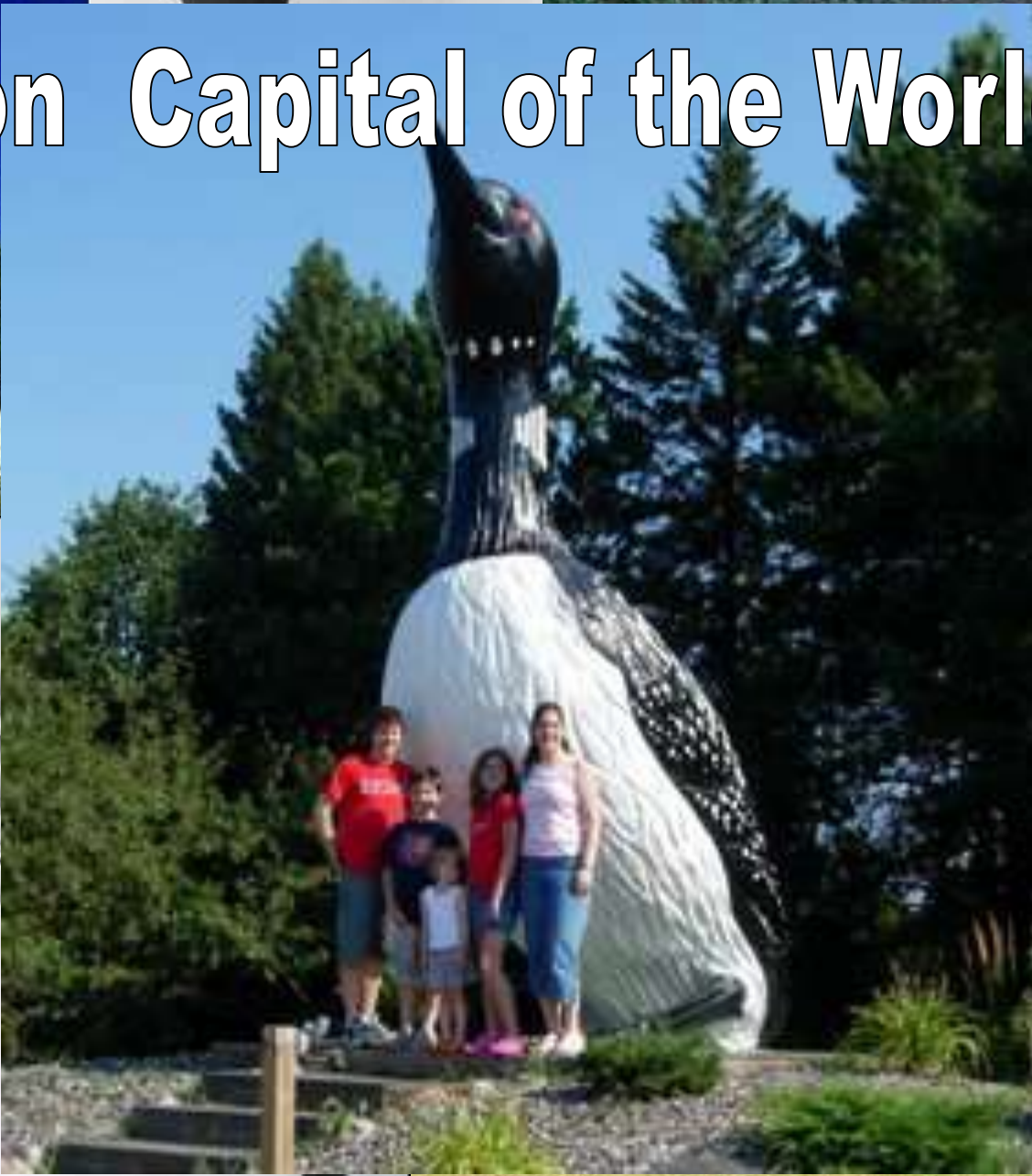
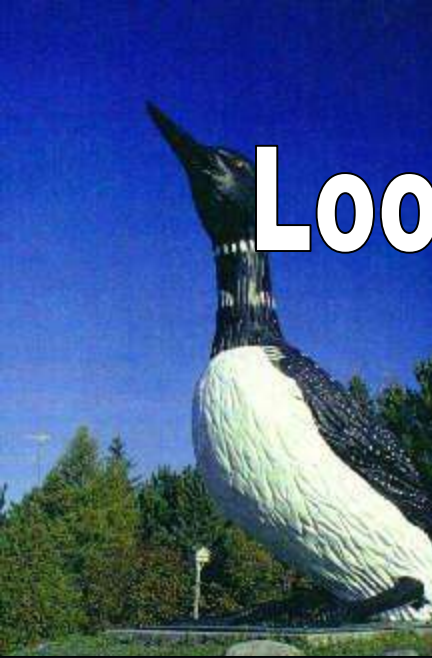


Iron County Loon Project

Above came a soft whisper of wings, and as the loons saw us they called wildly in alarm and took the laughing with them into the gathering dusk. The shores echoed and re-echoed until they seemed to throb with the music. This was the symbol of the lake country, the sound that more than any other typifies the rocks, waters, and forests of the wilderness.

--Sigurd F. Olson, Listening Point

Loon Capital of the World



Packer Fan





Pacific

John D. Clem



Red -throated

Des



Arctic



Yellow-billed

Breeding Plumage



Common Loon

Non- Breeding Plumage



Learn Loons Inside and Out



Volunteer Please!

Wings



200 times per minute

70 mph



Ginger Gumm / Daniel Poleschook Jr.



Feet

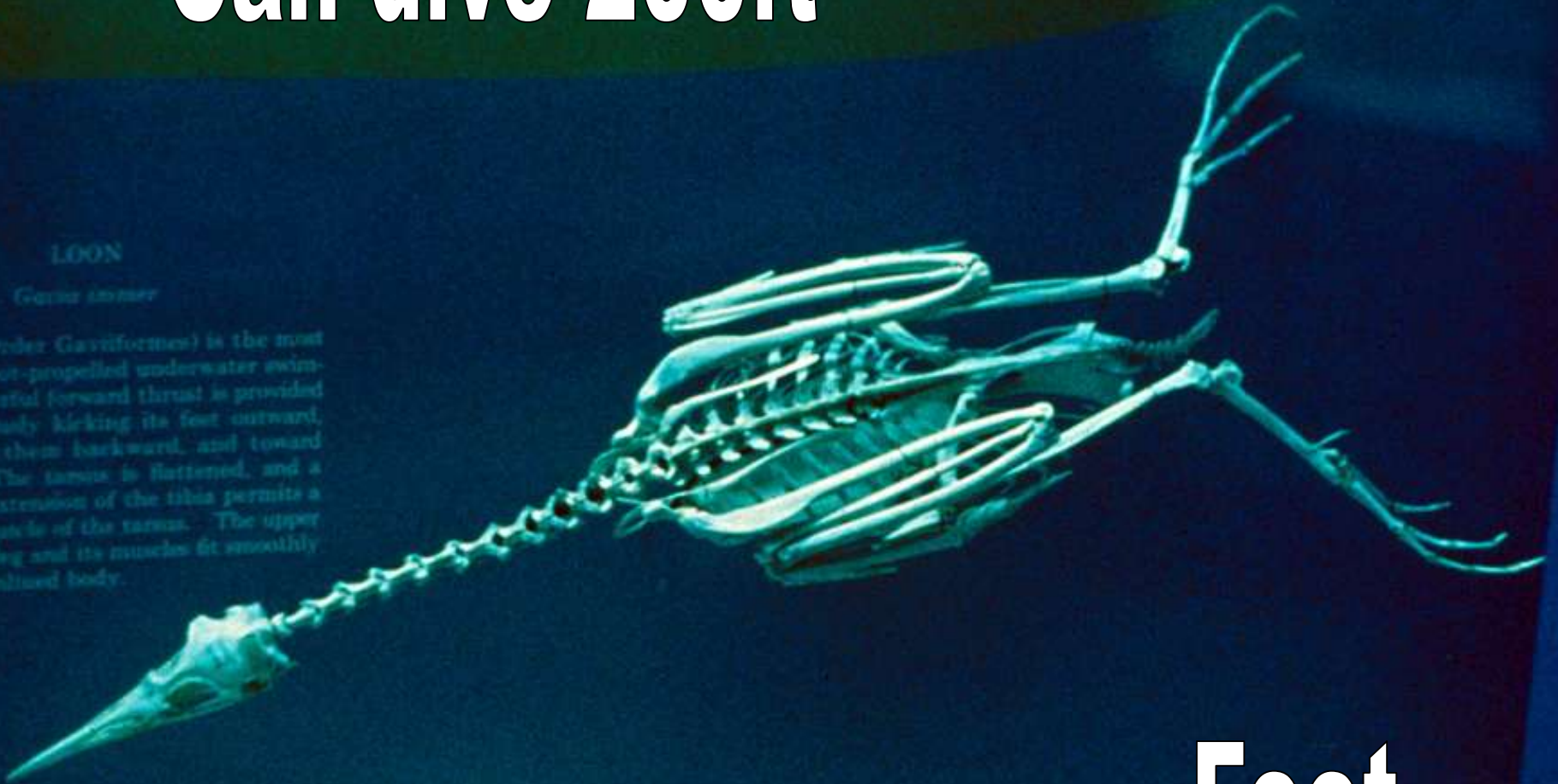
*Common Loon
Reno, NV
4/10/08
Martin Meyers*

Can dive 200ft

LOON

Gavia immer

(Order Gaviiformes) is the most powerful forward thrust is provided by simultaneously kicking its feet outward, pulling them backward, and toward the body. The tarsus is flattened, and a third extension of the tibia permits a large muscle of the tarsus. The upper part of the leg and its muscles fit smoothly into the streamlined body.



Feet

Under Water -Average 1-min.



Feet

Beak



2 lbs of fish each day



Ginger Gumm / Daniel Poleschook Jr.

Loon Calls



The Wail- a howl like call ~ to locate others:
“where are you?”



The Yodel- a more complex call, which only comes from the male “I am a male loon, I’m on my territory and I’m prepared to defend it.”



The Tremolos- sounds like a quavering laugh. Often used when a loon feels threatened. Also, a variation of the tremolo is the flight call. It is usually given over lakes and is a loon’s way of requesting clearance for landing.



The Hoot- hoots occur between members of a male/female pair or with chicks

First Day of Ice Out



A year in the life of the Loon

Male arrive first



Ginger Gumm / Daniel Poleschook Jr.

Pair Bonding



Defending Territory





Nest Searching

10 Acre Minimum

Natural Nest



1-2 Eggs



28 Day Incubation



Larry Oberhofer

Both male/female incubate



William Beattie

Defend Territory





Joseph LaRock



Ginger Gumm / Daniel Poleschook Jr.



David Rippon



Feeding the Chicks





Michael Mikulich

Adults Fly South -August-September



Matt Dooley

October - November



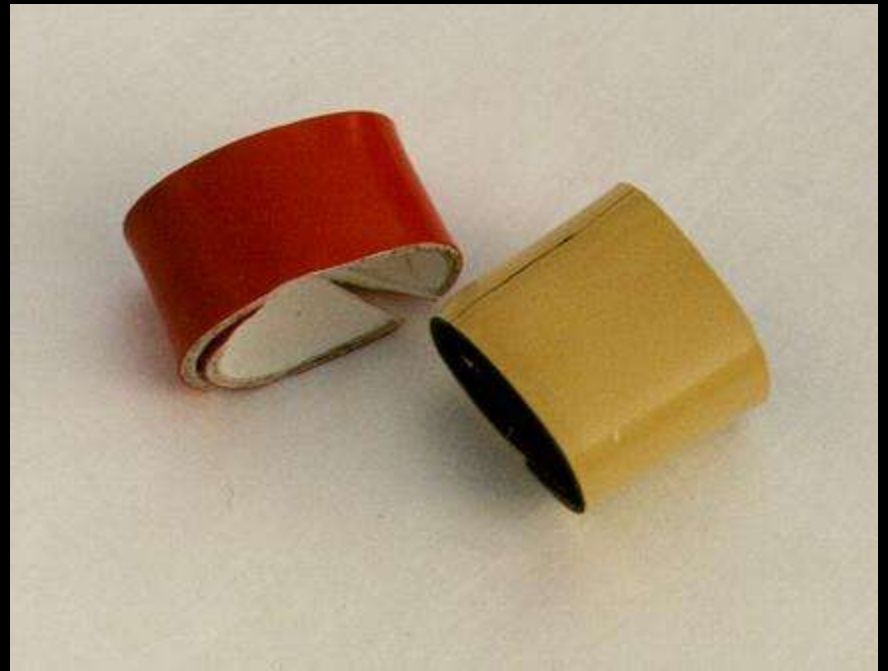
Thomas
Schmock

Fall Migration



Ginger Gumm and Daniel Poleschook Jr.

Loon Research

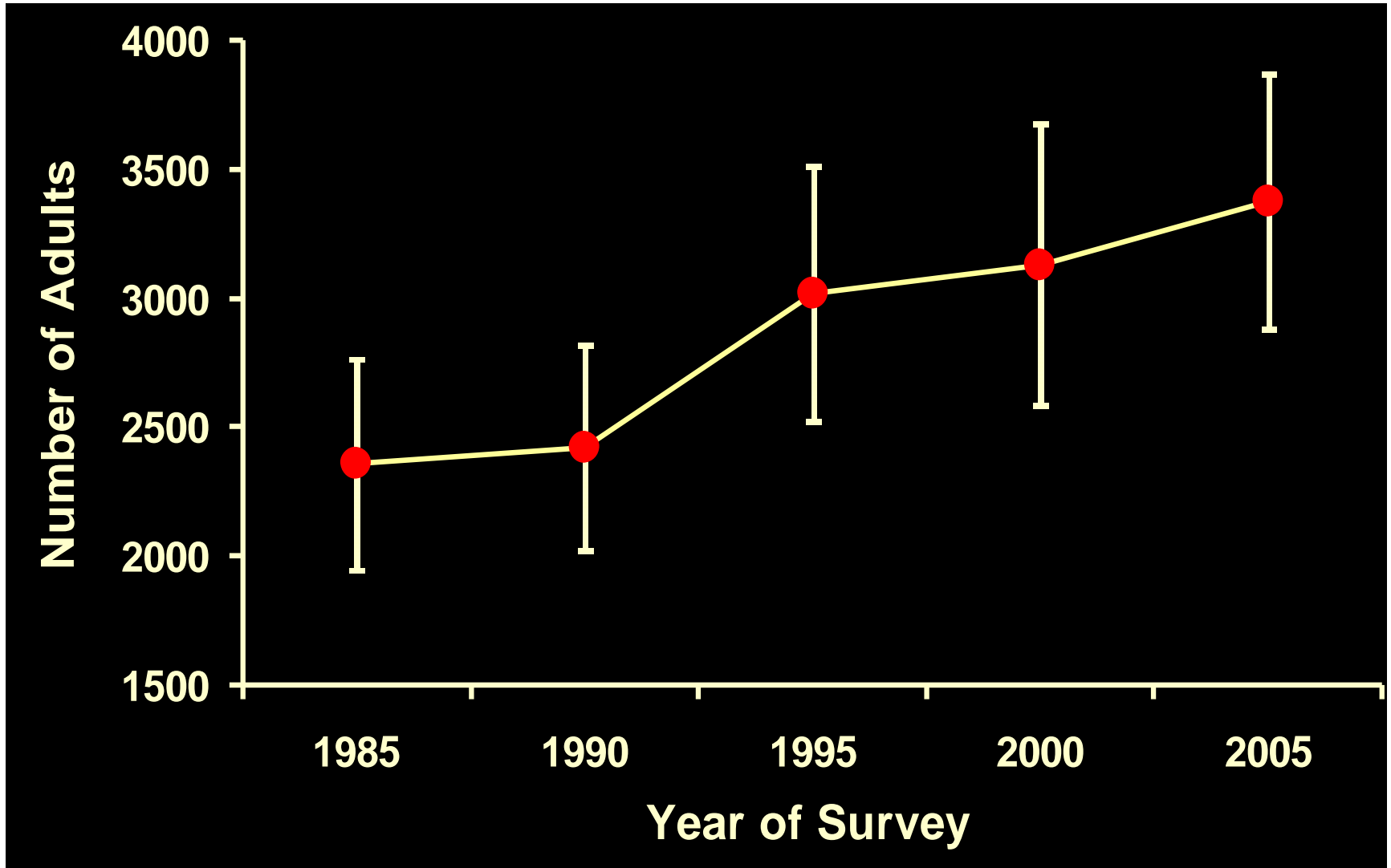


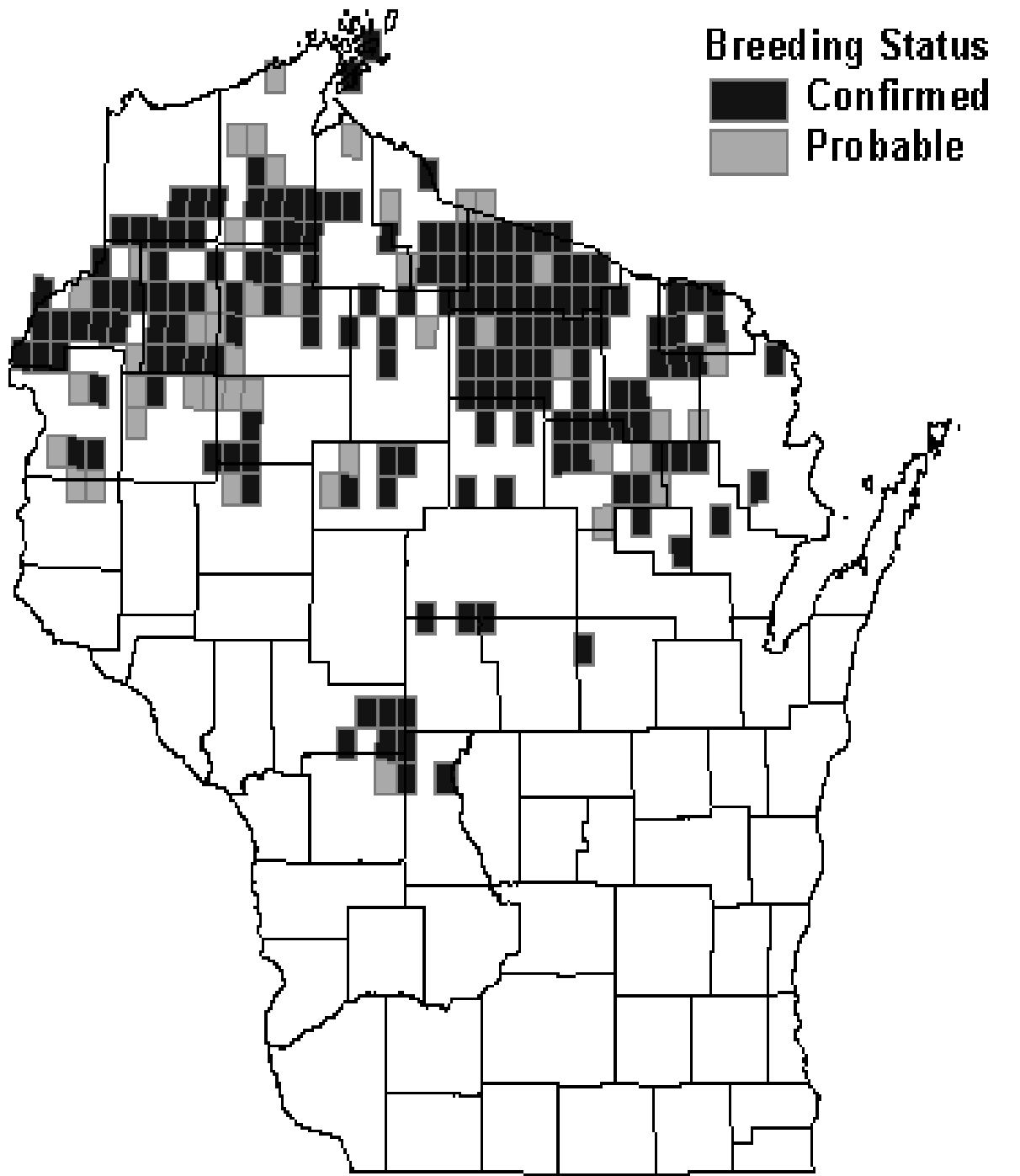
Research and Education

Woods and Waters



Loon Watch: Population Estimates of Adult Common Loons in Wisconsin





Distribution of Loons Breeding in Wisconsin

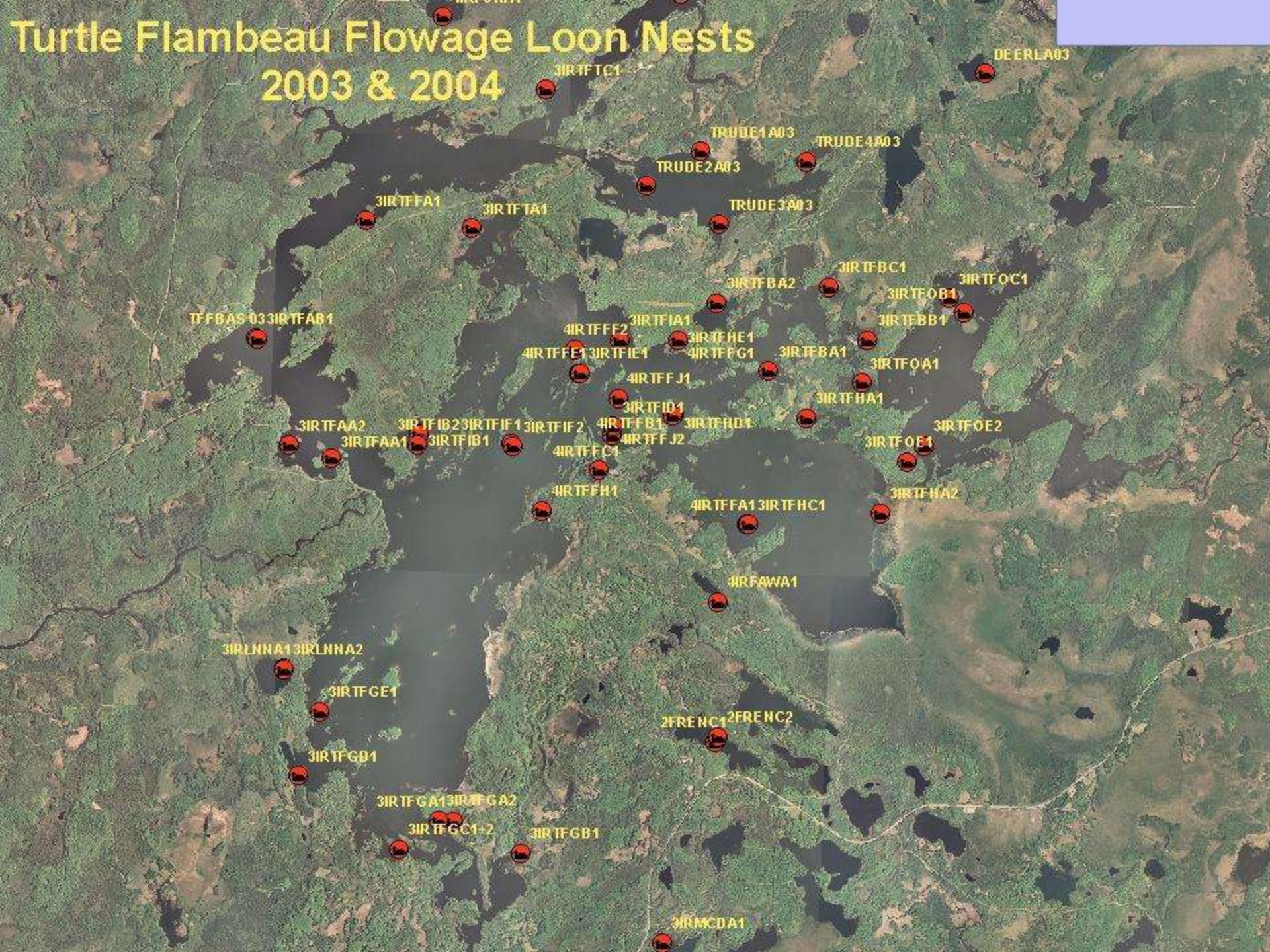
Wisconsin
Breeding Bird
Atlas project,
1995-1999

So What do Wisconsin Northwood's Nesting Loons Prefer?

- Lakes with good water clarity (secchi disk depth >4 feet)
- Lakes with a convoluted shoreline, with lots of bays
- Lakes with neutral pH (more fish, less mercury)
- Available nesting habitat (islands and boggy/swampy areas with low human disturbance)
- Lakes with fewer than 25 buildings/km!

Turtle Flambeau Flowage Loon Nests

2003 & 2004

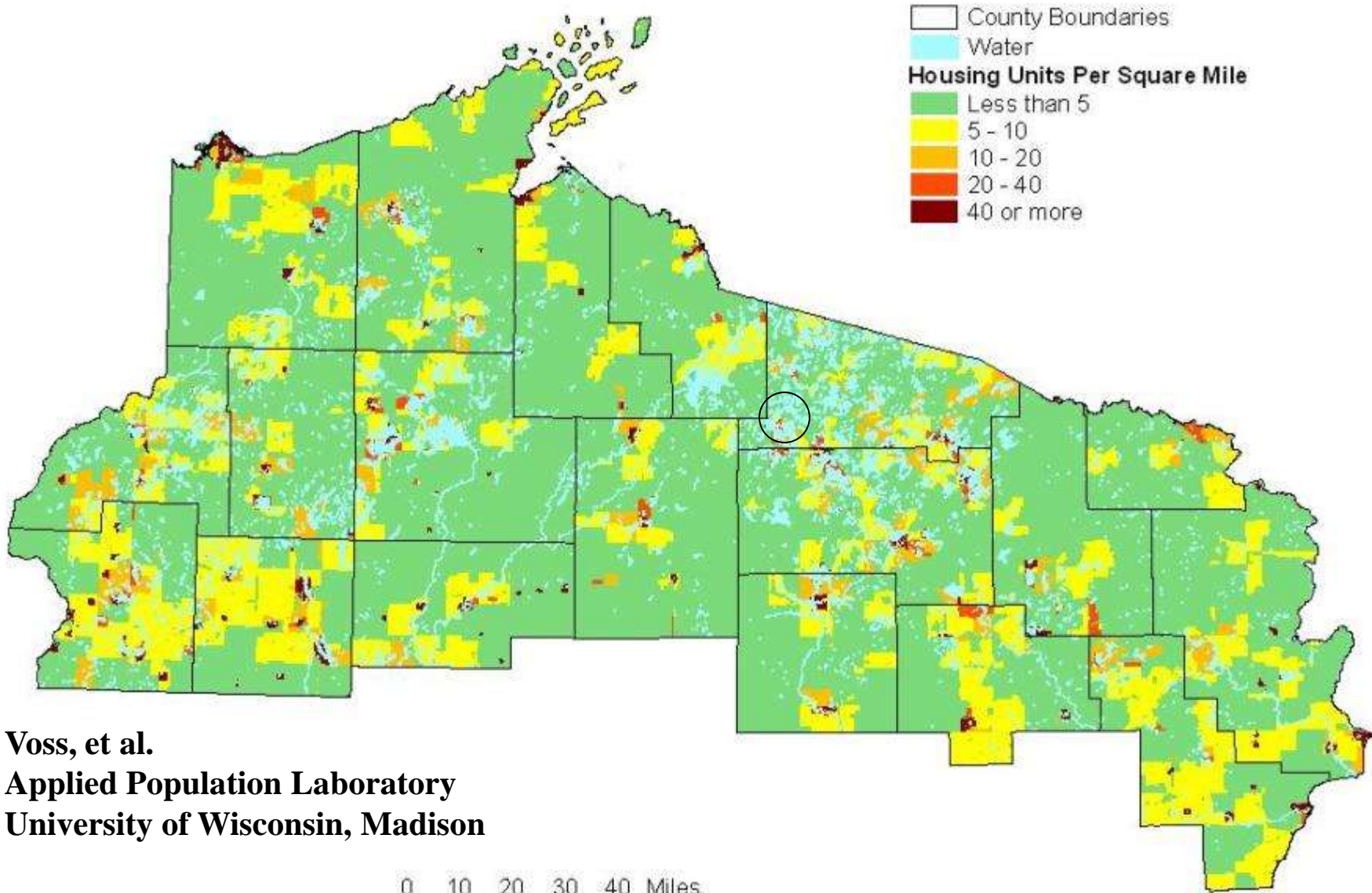




Stressors - Habitat alteration



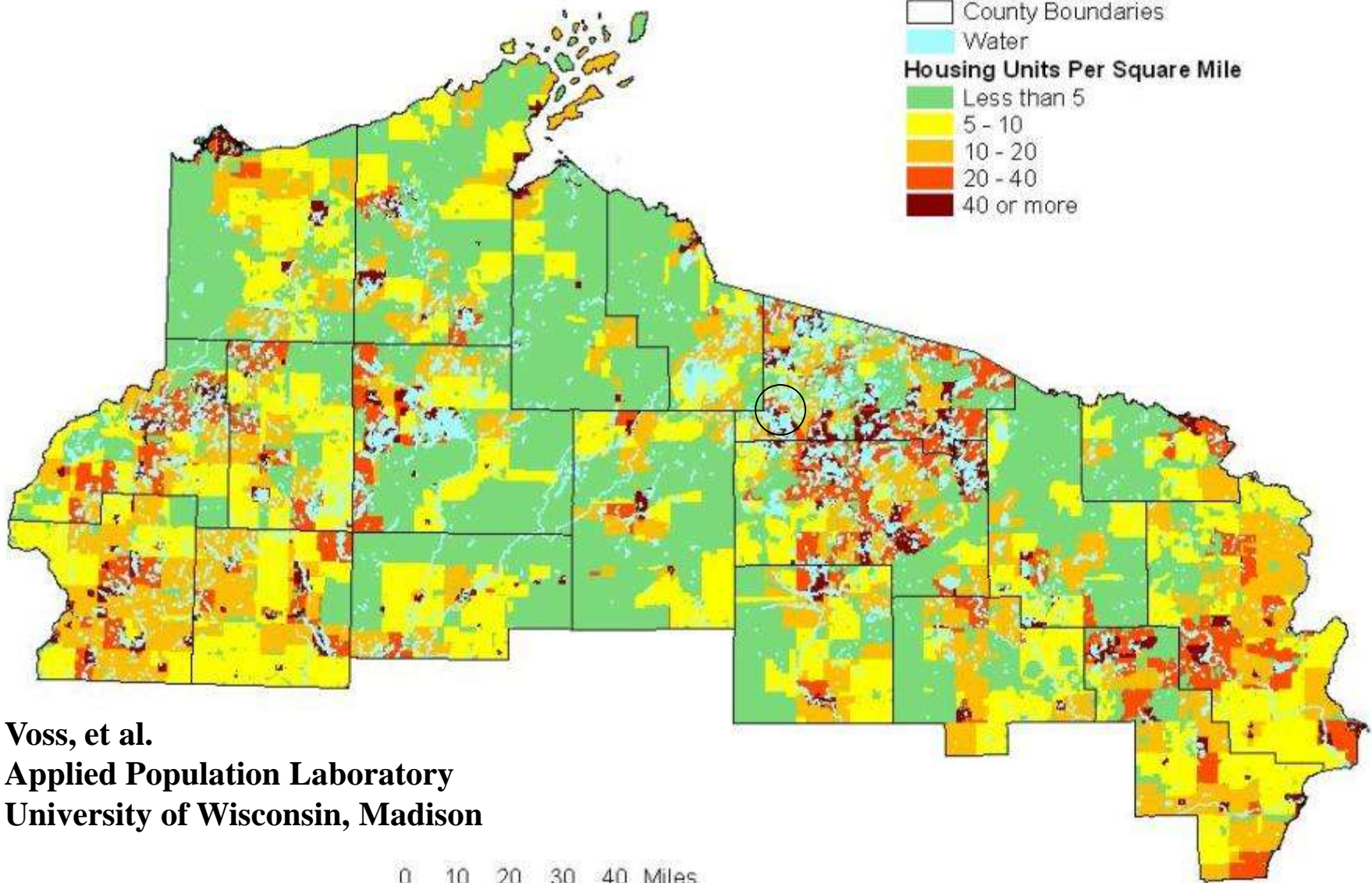
1940 Housing Density by Partial Block Group



Voss, et al.
Applied Population Laboratory
University of Wisconsin, Madison

0 10 20 30 40 Miles

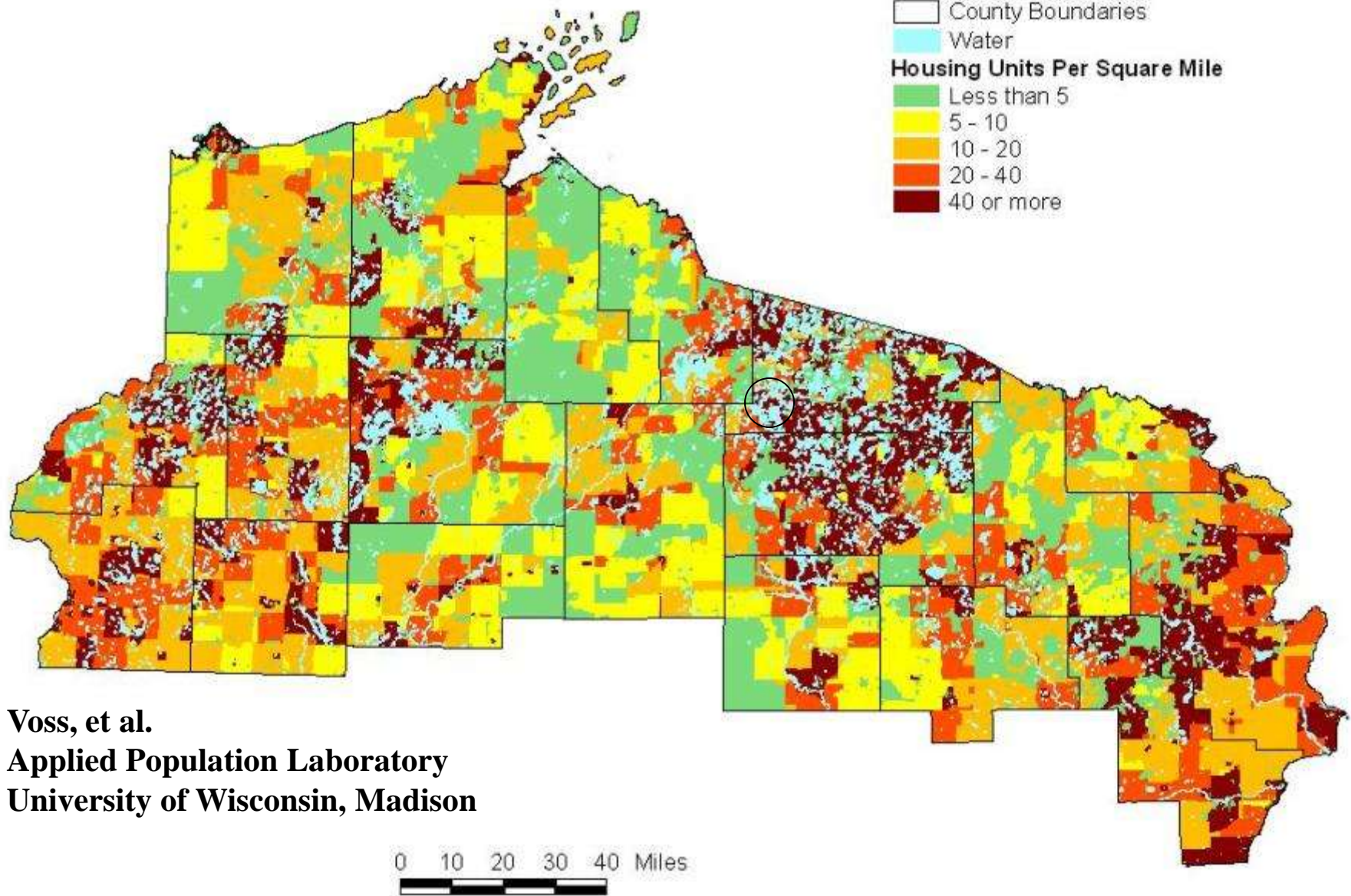
1990 Housing Density by Partial Block Group



Voss, et al.
Applied Population Laboratory
University of Wisconsin, Madison

0 10 20 30 40 Miles

2010 Housing Density by Partial Block Group Rural Renaissance Forecast



Voss, et al.
Applied Population Laboratory
University of Wisconsin, Madison

What are our Goals?

- *Monitor the Common Loon on smaller inland lakes
- *Increase chick production
- *Find possible causes for failure of nests:
 - Shoreline development
 - Predation
 - Lack of quality nesting sites
 - Lake traffic and disturbances
- *What makes a good loon lake?



Locate Historic Nest Sites



Cover with Vegetation



Put out Artificial Nest Platforms



Eagle Prof.



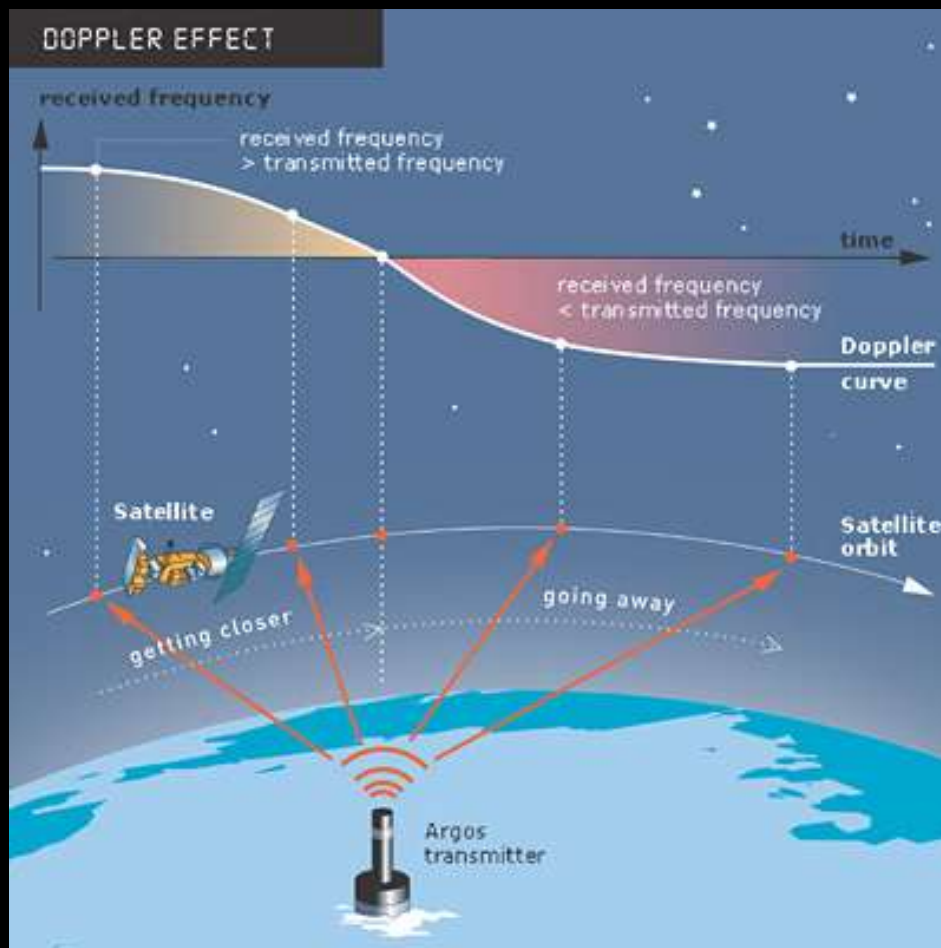
Monitor for Predation

or Disturbance









Tracking loons via satellite

Common Loon Migration Routes

