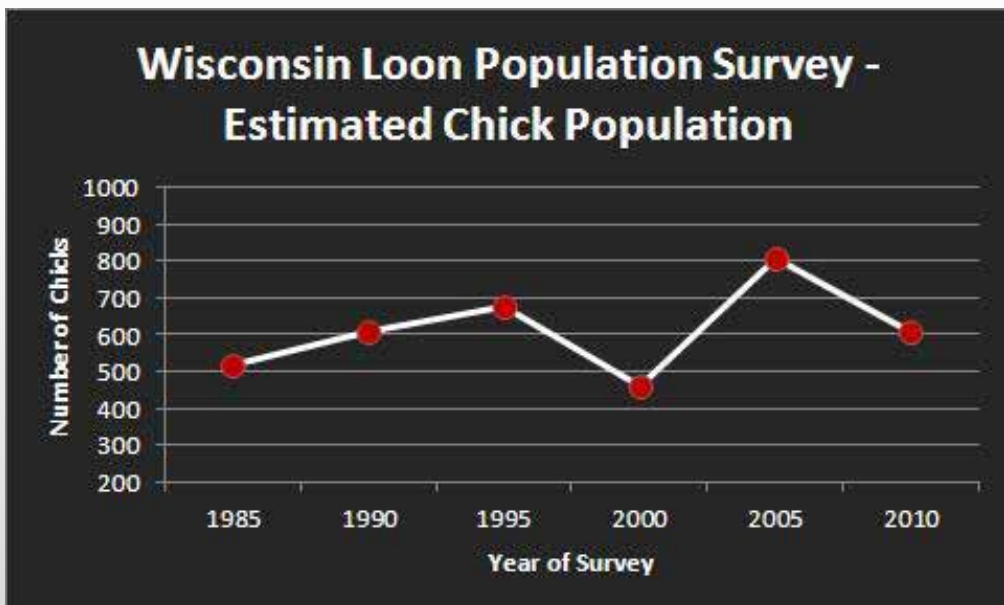
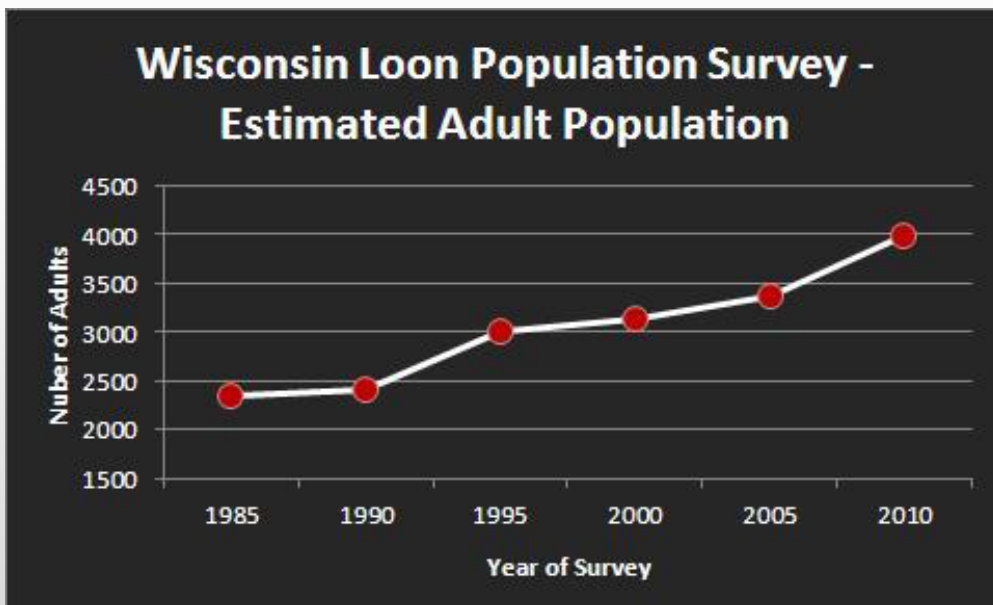


Wisconsin Loon Population Survey



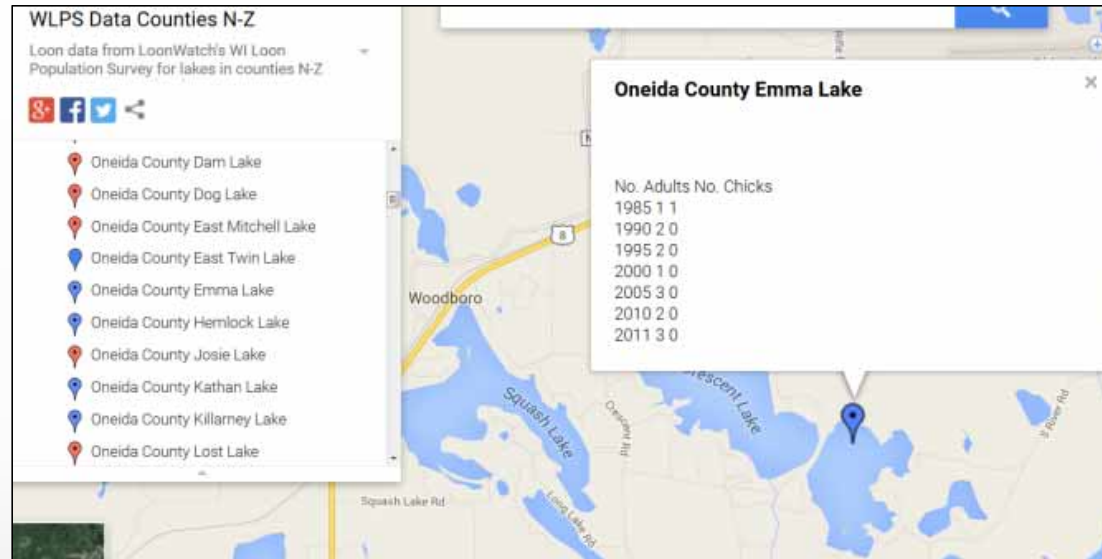
How does WLPS differ from the ALMP? WLPS is:

- One day survey. Saturday **July 18th, between 5:00a.m. and 10:00a.m.**
- Counting **adult loons and loon chicks**. NOT counting territorial pairs, floaters, etc.
- Survey occurs only on **258 pre-selected lakes**. These lakes were randomly chosen based on all size classes, # of lakes per county, and northern breeding location. They are representative of all lakes in the loon's breeding area.



Photo by Linda Grenzer

Recommendations



- Make sure you know the lake location – use a Wisconsin Gazetteer or check our website link <http://www.northland.edu/loon-population-survey.htm>
- If unfamiliar with the lake, visit at least once before the survey.

Protocol

- **READ THE SURVEY INSTRUCTIONS!**
- **Monitor only the pre-selected lake(s)** you signed up to survey.
- Survey for a **minimum of ½ hour on Saturday, July 18th between the hours of 5:00a.m. and 10:00a.m.**, longer depending on lake size and type of boat.
- The **latest** you can survey **is at 9:30a.m.** so you can finish by 10:00a.m.
- Survey forms will not be used if surveys are performed on the wrong date or time.
- If you find you cannot survey, contact LoonWatch as soon as possible

Protocol

- Fill in your form completely
- **Lines left blank** do not mean “0”, they **mean no data**
- Zero is important data too – we need the whole picture of what is happening out there.
- Forms lacking data will not be recorded for the Wisconsin Loon Population Survey

2015 WISCONSIN LOON POPULATION SURVEY REPORTING FORM

Lake (One form per lake): _____

County: _____

Legal Description: Township (e.g. T31N): T _____ N Range (e.g. R2E): R _____

Permanent Mailing Address, Phone Number, and Email Address:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail Address: _____

PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTION FORM BEFORE THE SURVEY

Date of Observation (**circle one**): 7/18/15 bad weather date: 7/25/15

ATTENTION: SURVEYS NOT DONE ON ONE OF THESE DAYS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED

Observation **Start Time**: (between 5 AM and 9:30 AM): _____

Observation **End Time**: (between 5:30 AM and 10 AM): _____

Number of **ADULT** loons seen on the lake during survey: _____

Number of loon **CHICKS** seen on the lake during the survey: _____

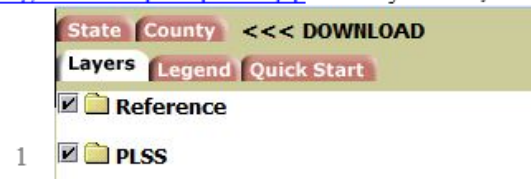
IMPORTANT! If you do not see any loons, write “0” above – Do not leave spaces blank.

Protocol

<http://www.geocommunicator.gov/blmMap/MapLSIS.jsp>

↳ *How do I find Township and Range?*

Township and Range are part of the Public Land Survey System designed by the federal government as a way to identify exactly where a piece of land is. Township describes how far north or south the land is and range describes how far east or west. Use this website map to select your lake, and learn the Township and Range: <http://www.geocommunicator.gov/blmMap/MapLSIS.jsp>. When you start, click "County" in the upper right corner of the webpage



From the dropdown menu, chose Wisconsin and your county, and click the Search/Select button. Click on the Zoom button, place your cursor over the area of the map where you want to zoom, and click. Click on the Sketch button, and draw a polygon over the area you need Township and Range information. Double-click to close the polygon and record the Township and Range information in the box.



Land Survey Information System

The interface includes a toolbar with the following icons and labels:

- Zoom In
- Zoom Out
- Pan
- Identify
- Sketch
- Full extent
- Last extent
- Clear
- PDF
- Lat/long
- Place name
- Town ship
- Select area
- Selected records
- SiteMapper
- Energy Map

The map displays a grid of survey lines (CR A, CR C, CR E, CR G, CR H, CR J, CR K, CR Y, CR W) overlaid on a topographic map of Wisconsin. Key locations and features include:

- Lac du Flambeau
- Fence Lake
- Minocqua
- Oneida
- Harshaw
- Heafford Junction
- Tomahawk
- Irma
- Gleason
- Elcho
- Summit Lake
- Pearson
- Pickeral
- Argonne
- Prentice Airport
- Brantwood
- Tripoli
- Headford Junction
- Tomahawk
- Heafford Junction
- Tomahawk
- Irma
- Gleason
- Elcho
- Summit Lake
- Pearson
- Pickeral
- Argonne
- Prentice Airport
- Brantwood
- Tripoli
- Headford Junction
- Tomahawk
- Heafford Junction
- Tomahawk
- Irma
- Gleason
- Elcho
- Summit Lake
- Pearson
- Pickeral
- Argonne

Other visible features include Willow Reservoir, Pelican Lake, and Eagle River Union Airport. The map is overlaid with a grid of survey lines and various colored lines representing different survey areas or boundaries.

Protocol

- Make sure you look at all parts of the lake during the survey
- To survey lakes with irregular shaped shorelines, bays and islands, create a route with enough vantage points to survey the entire lake from land or boat.
- Draw your route and vantage points on your map
- Bring binoculars and/or a spotting scope to get a good look at all areas of the lake.



FIGURE 1. *Example of vantage points needed to survey an irregularly shaped lake from land*



FIGURE 2. *Example of boat route needed to survey an irregularly shaped lake.*



Protocol

- Count only loons on the lake
- Listen for calls to find hard to locate loons
- Do NOT count loons that:
 - Fly in and land
 - Fly over
 - You hear but do not see.
- If in doubt, err on the conservative side.

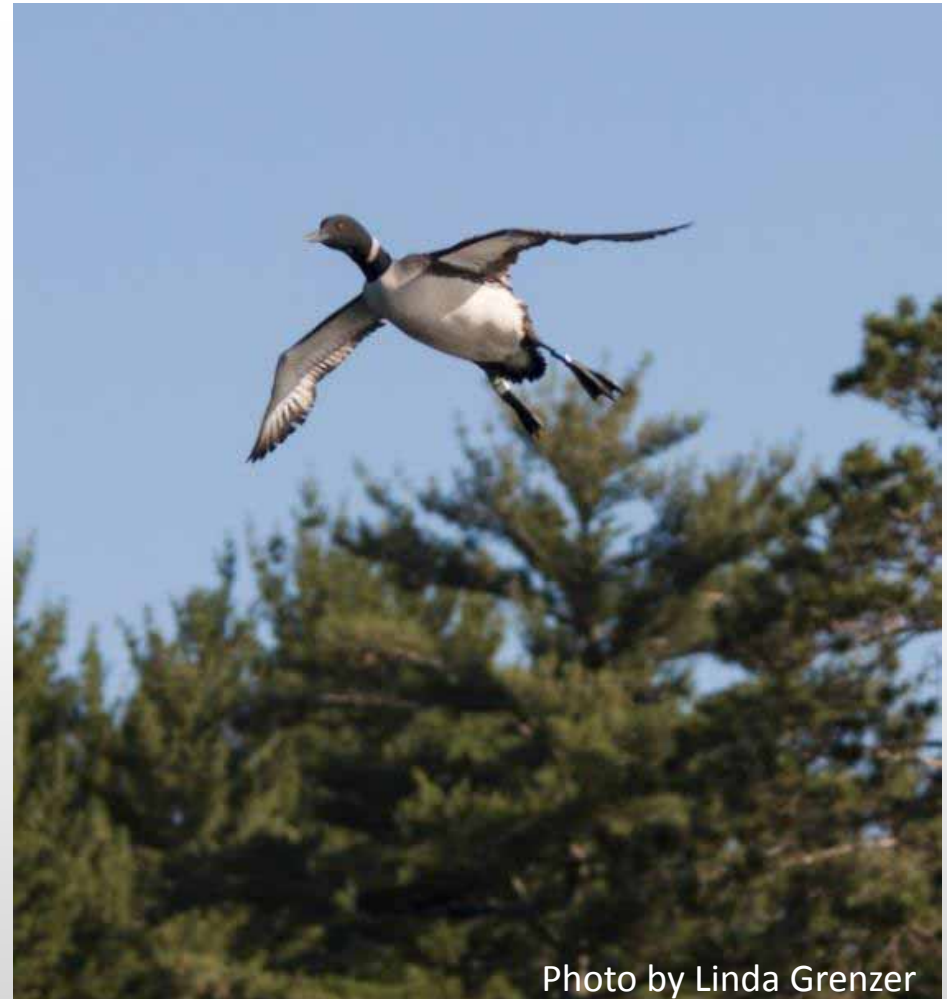
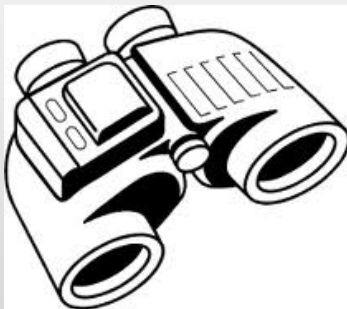


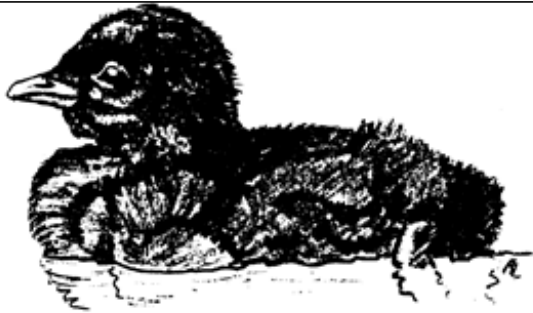
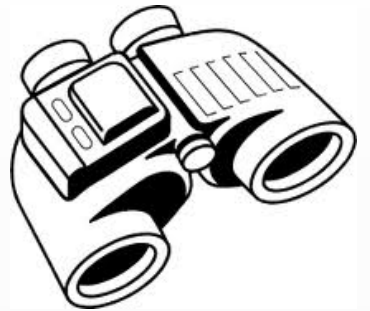
Photo by Linda Grenzer

Photo by Linda Grenzer



Protocol

- Make sure you are able to positively identify loons – adults, juveniles, and chicks



BIRTH TO 2 WEEKS



2 TO 4 WEEKS



ONE WEEK OLD CHICKS

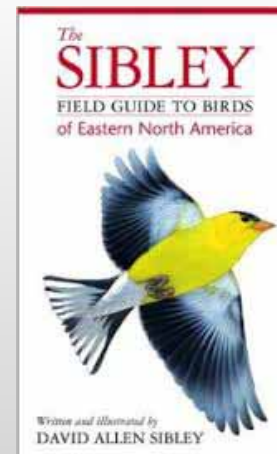
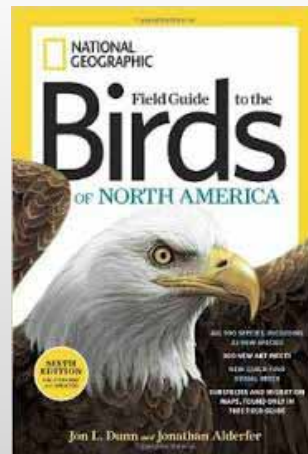
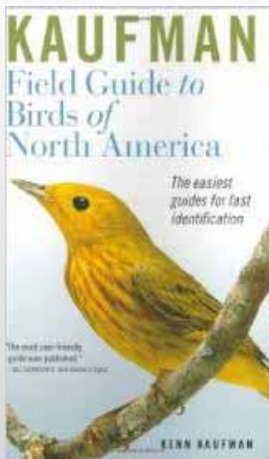


FIVE WEEK OLD CHICKS

Photos by Linda Grenzer

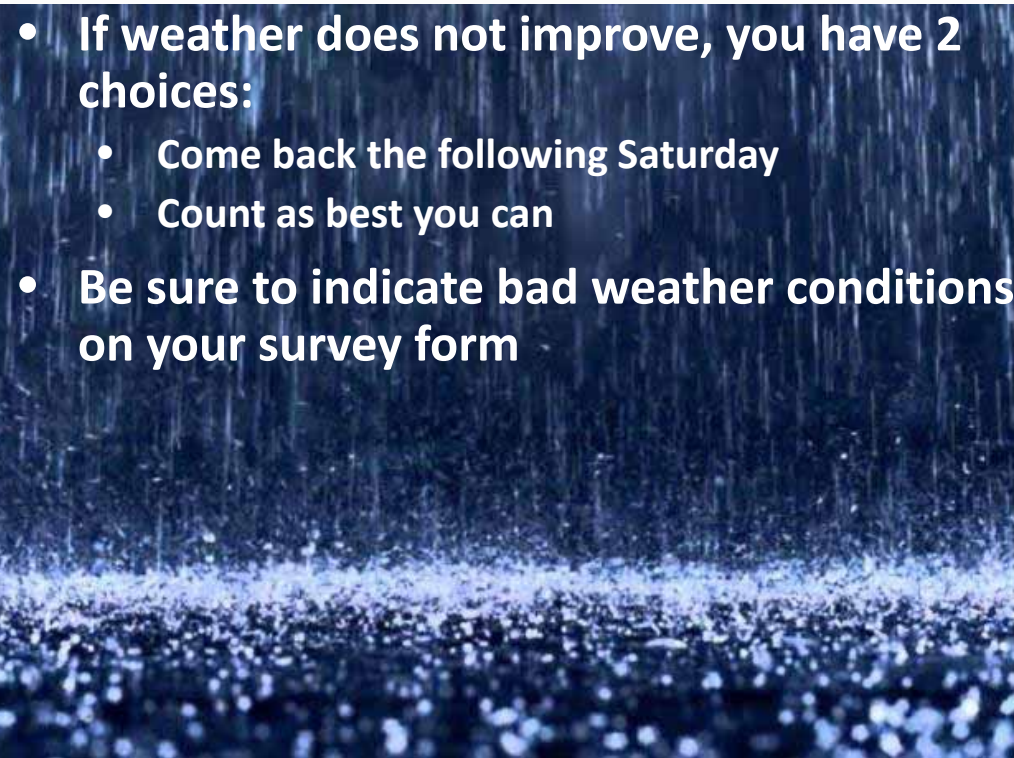
Protocol

- Make sure you are able to positively identify loons – adults, chicks and juveniles.
- Low light and bright light conditions, wind, fog, and rain can make it difficult to see.
- Bring binoculars, your survey form and instructions, and a field guide.



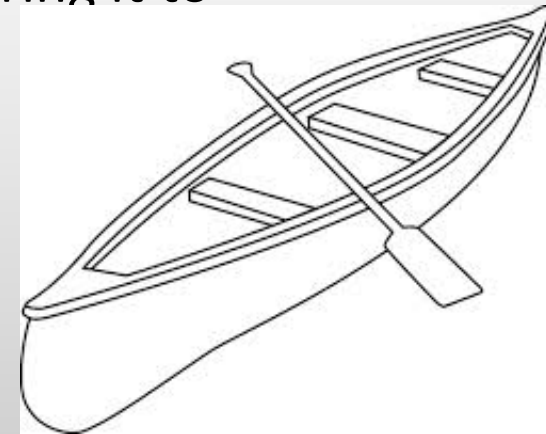
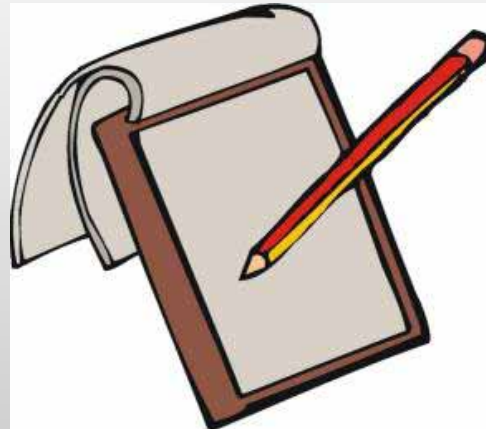
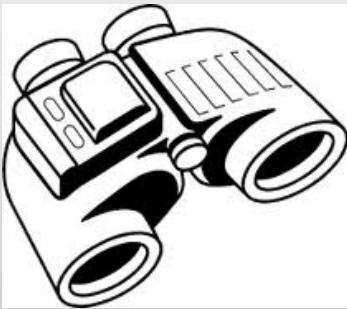
Protocol

- Bad weather or fog?
- Wait around for a while. It may get better.
- **If weather does not improve, you have 2 choices:**
 - Come back the following Saturday
 - Count as best you can
- **Be sure to indicate bad weather conditions on your survey form**



Important to Remember:

1. Be careful – wear life vests if you go in a boat or canoe
2. Try to avoid disturbing the loons as you count them
3. Bring binoculars, spotting scope (if available), pencil, survey form, map, instructions, field guide
4. Remember to check your boat (and boat trailer if applicable) for aquatic invasive species (esp plants) when removing it from the water. We recommend washing your boat before transferring it to a different water body.
5. Have fun!




Checklist After You're Done

____ Filled out survey form completely, including additional comments

____ Marked survey points/route on your lake map

____ Mailed both the completed survey form and lake map back to
LoonWatch, 1411 Ellis Ave, Ashland, WI 54806

Annual Lakes Monitoring Program

									
0									
County	Lake	WBIC	Survey Entire Lake	Territorial pairs	Nesting Pairs	Chick Rearing Pairs	Chicks Hatched	Chicks 8 wks	Floaters
Ashland	English Lake	2914800	Yes	2	0	0	0	0	3
	Galilee	2935500	Yes	1	1	1	1	1	2
	Little Clam Lake	1861100	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Pole Lake	187500	Yes	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Torrey Lake	2406700	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	2
Barron	Bass Lake	1833100	Yes	1	1	1	2	0	1
	Hemlock Lake	2109800	Yes	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Kirby Lake	1858200	Yes	1	1	0	0	0	0
	Loon Lake	2478600	Yes	1	1	1	1	1	10
	Lower Vermillion	2098200	Yes	1	1	0	0	0	0
	Red Cedar Lake	2109600	Yes	5	2	2	3	2	9
	Sand Lake	2661100	Yes	2	1	0	0	0	6
	Spring Lake	1882800	Yes	1	1	0	0	0	3
Bayfield	Atkins Lake	2734000	No	Unk	Unk	Unk	Unk	Unk	6
	Bass Lake	2901100	Yes	1	1	0	0	0	2
	Bass Lake	2733600	No	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Bony Lake	2742500	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Crystal Lake	2897300	Yes	1	1	0	0	0	5
	Hammil Lake	2467900	Yes	1	1	0	0	0	2
	Island Lake	2764600	Yes	1	Unk	0	0	0	1
	Kern Lake	2900500	Yes	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Little Bass	2735200	Yes	1	1	0	0	0	1
	Long Lake	2767100	Yes	1	1	1	1	1	6
	Lower Eau Claire Lake	2741600	Yes	2	2	1	1	1	5
	Marengo Lake	2921100	Yes	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Middle Eau Claire Lake	2742100	Yes	1	0	0	0	0	5
	Perry Lake	2730800	Yes	1	1	0	0	0	1
	Phantom	2771200	Yes	1	0	0	0	0	6
	Price Lake	2491300	Yes	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Roger Lake	2772600	Yes	1	1	0	0	0	1
	Samoset Lake	2494800	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Sandbar	2502900	Yes	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Sweet Lake	2743700	Yes	1	1	0	0	0	6

How does ALMP differ from the WLPS? ALMP is:




- An annual monitoring program. Ideally, volunteers **monitor once a week from ice-out to migration**.
- Volunteers collect **productivity and phenology data**: arrival date, floaters, territorial pairs, nesting pairs, # of nesting attempts, # chicks, # chicks surviving to 8 weeks.
- **Volunteers can select the lake(s)** they want to monitor.



Protocol

- READ THE INSTRUCTIONS
- **Volunteers have the option to participate at an enhanced level** – this is very helpful for management recommendations
 - Check the box above the contact information if you want to participate
- Return your monitoring form no later than **November 15**

2015 Annual Lake Monitoring Form

  **Please read the enclosed instructions!** 

Remember to use only **one form per lake**. Please mail this form and the lake map to LoonWatch by **Nov 15, 2015**.

LoonWatch • Northland College • 1411 Ellis Ave. • Ashland, WI 54806 • 715.682.1220 • loonwatch@northland.edu

Check here if you plan to participate in enhanced monitoring: **collect 6 or more observations between May 15 and July 15 -- as well as 2 observations of chicks in August, (if any are hatched).**

Contact Information

Name: _____	
Email Address: _____	
Permanent Mailing Address:	Summer Address (if different):
Street Address: _____	Street Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____	City/State/Zip: _____
Phone #: _____	Phone #: _____
How many years have you volunteered for this program? _____	

Protocol

- Fill out basic information about the lake you are monitoring
- WBIC # can be found on your lake map
- Dates you started and stopped monitoring are very important – did you catch the first nesting attempt?
- Want more information about your lake including water quality? Check out the WI DNR website <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/>

Information About Your Lake

Lake Map, Acreage and WBIC # can be found at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/maps/>

Lake Name: _____ County Name: _____

Town Name: _____ Lake Size (Acres) _____ WBIC # _____

1. Does your lake have an association? Yes No

2. Date you started monitoring: _____

3. Date you stopped monitoring: _____

4. Did you survey the entire lake? Yes No

- *If you surveyed only a portion of the lake, please indicate the surveyed area on your map.*

Protocol

- Let us know
 - If loons were observed on your lake
 - If loons stayed for the summer
 - If territorial pairs were present
 - If territorial pairs nested
- Let us know when you
 - Observed the first loons on your lake in spring
 - Observed loon rafts in the fall
 - # of loons observed in spring and fall

Loon Observations and Migration Information

5. Circle only one statement. Please read instructions to help you select your answer.
 - a. No loons were seen on this lake.
 - b. Loons visit this lake but do not stay for the summer.
 - c. Loons stayed on this lake all summer but there were no signs of nesting or territorial behavior.
(Usually, these loons are not in pairs.)
 - d. There were one or more territorial pairs present on this lake.
(Routinely observed a loon pair(s) on this lake who were not aggressive with each other.)
 - e. Both c. and d.
6. When did loons first arrive on the lake in spring? (month/day) ____/____ depart in fall? ____/____
7. Did loons use your lake as a stop-over during spring (March 1 – April 15) or fall (October 15 – December 15) migration? Yes No
What was the largest number seen? _____
8. If yes, please indicate during which migration the loons used your lake, and approximately how many birds were involved:
Spring Migration: _____ # individual loons Fall Migration: _____ # individual loons

Photo by Ray Thielbar

Protocol



Photo by Linda Grenzer

Protocol

- Record
 - # of territories
 - Give each territory a name
- Complete each step as it applies to your observations
 1. Were you able to locate the nesting site? Yes No
If yes, indicate the type of nesting site used:
Island On/near mainland shore ANP Different Lake Other _____



Photo by Rich Floyd

Loon Territory Summary

Identify each loon territory by its name or unique location on your lake, and outline this area on your lake map. For example, if you do not have a territory name, you may name them by a unique geographic reference, such as North Bay and South Bay territories. **IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN 2 TERRITORIES, MAKE A COPY OF THIS PAGE, fill out and return**

Total Territories on Lake: _____ # Territories

Loon Territory Description: _____

1. Were you able to locate the nesting site? Yes No

If yes, please indicate the type of nesting site used:

Island On/near mainland shore Artificial Nesting Platform Different Lake Other: _____

2. What type of ownership is the land where the nest is located?

Public Private Unknown

3. Did the eggs in the nest fail to hatch? Yes No

If yes, how was the nest lost?

*Predation by: _____ Water level change Other: _____ Unknown

- 3a. Was there a 2nd nesting attempt? (Yes /No) A 3rd nesting attempt (Yes/No)

If yes, did the nest fail to hatch? [2nd attempt (Yes/No); 3rd attempt (Yes/No)]

Did loons re-nest at the same location? [2nd attempt (Yes/No); 3rd attempt (Yes/No)]

If no, provide new location on map and label "2nd Attempt" and "3rd Attempt".

Protocol

- Complete each step as it applies to your observations

2. Type of ownership?

Public Private Unknown

3. Did the eggs fail to hatch?

Yes No

If yes, how was the nest lost?

Predation by _____

Water level change

Other _____

Unknown

Loon Territory Summary

Identify each loon territory by its name or unique location on your lake, and outline this area on your lake map. For example, if you do not have a territory name, you may name them by a unique geographic reference, such as North Bay and South Bay territories. **IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN 2 TERRITORIES, MAKE A COPY OF THIS PAGE, fill out and return**

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Island On/near mainland shore Artificial Nesting Platform Different Lake Other: _____

2. What type of ownership is the land where the nest is located?

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If no, provide new location on map and label "2nd Attempt" and "3rd Attempt".

Protocol

- Complete each step as it applies to your observations

3a. Was there a 2nd nesting attempt? Yes No

A 3rd Nesting attempt Yes No

If yes, did the nest fail to hatch?
[2nd attempt (Yes/No)];
[3rd attempt (Yes/No)]

Did loons re-nest at the same location?

[2nd attempt (Yes/No)];
[3rd attempt (Yes/No)]

If no, provide new location on map

Loon Territory Summary

Identify each loon territory by its name or unique location on your lake, and outline this area on your lake map. For example, if you do not have a territory name, you may name them by a unique geographic reference, such as North Bay and South Bay territories. **IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN 2 TERRITORIES, MAKE A COPY OF THIS PAGE, fill out and return**

Total Territories on Lake: _____ # Territories

Loon Territory Description: _____

1. Were you able to locate the nesting site? Yes No

If yes, please indicate the type of nesting site used:

Island On/near mainland shore Artificial Nesting Platform Different Lake Other: _____

2. What type of ownership is the land where the nest is located?

Public Private Unknown

3. Did the eggs in the nest fail to hatch? Yes No

If yes, how was the nest lost?

*Predation by: _____ Water level change Other: _____ Unknown

3a. Was there a 2nd nesting attempt? (Yes /No) A 3rd nesting attempt (Yes/No)

If yes, did the nest fail to hatch? [2nd attempt (Yes/No); 3rd attempt (Yes/No)]

Did loons re-nest at the same location? [2nd attempt (Yes/No); 3rd attempt (Yes/No)]

If no, provide new location on map and label "2nd Attempt" and "3rd Attempt".

Protocol

- Fill in your form completely
- **Lines left blank** do not mean “0”, they **mean no data**
- **Zero is important data too** – we need the whole picture of what is happening out there.



Loon Season Summary

*** You must complete this table to have your data included in the report. If you do not see loons, write “0”.

Number of Territorial Pairs present on this lake:	
Number of Territorial Pairs with 1 or more nest attempt:	
Number of Territorial Pairs with successful hatch	
Total Chicks Hatched on this lake:	
Total Chicks Fledged (survived to 8 weeks):	
Number of Floaters present on this lake:	
Number of Nest Locations Determined:	

Number of Known Nest Attempts:	
Nest Location Name	# of Nest Attempts

Comments

**Thank you for learning about loons!
Please help us spread the word about
how to protect loons and their habitat.**

