Loons Need Our Help





Recreational Co-existence with Loons

Watch loons from **AT LEAST** 200 feet away, which is close to the length of a football field. If loons vocalize when approaching, it is time to back away.

Binoculars are a great way to view, even better than the naked eye.

When fishing and a loon is swimming near, pull up your lines and move to another location. Never leave fishing lines unattended. Properly dispose of discarded lines.

Loons trailing fishing line often end up with it wrapped tightly around their bodies and bills, preventing them from being able to eat. Entangled loons will weaken and die without help.

DO NOT use lead fishing tackle to prevent unnecessary and avoidable painful deaths. Switch to non-poisonous alternatives such as tungsten, steel, bismuth, pewter, ceramic or tin.

Loons are visual hunters and may strike fishing lures or fish on a hook.

Display fireworks away from water where loons reside.

Loons are vulnerable to loud explosives being launched and hot falling embers can land on their heads and backs.

Be watchful on jet skis and wave runners as loons cannot determine directions when spinning, jumping, and quickly turning.

Loon **chicks are so small that they may drown from the wake of watercraft.**

Be a responsible boater. Never chase loons or run motorboats or personal watercraft over areas where loons have been seen.

The sound of a boat motor can cause a parent to panic and dive away from its young chicks.

Loon Habitat Protection

Use only phosphorus-free fertilizers on shorelands, and **ONLY if needed.** According to The Loon Project, one of the greatest dangers to the Wisconsin loon population is decreased water clarity.

Fertilizer that runs off into lakes increases aquatic plant growth, making it difficult for loons to swim and find food in murky water.

Maintain a natural vegetation buffer area on shorelines. This protects water quality by slowing and absorbing runoff chemicals before they enter the lake.

Loon Law Enforcement



The Migratory Bird Treaty Act protects loons from harassment or killing. Also, it is illegal to possess loon feathers, eggs or nests. Harassing a protected species like the Common Loon carries a $1000 fine and 90 days in jail.

Take a picture/video of the watercraft's registration and **report loon harassment to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-TIP-WDNR.** Include a description of the watercraft operator.

Sources: https://www.northland.edu/centers/soei/loonwatch/about-loons/; https://loonproject.org/

Loon Facts

- Loons are considered one of the most primitive birds on earth with their ancestry dating back **18 million years**.
- During flight, loons flap their wings about **200 times per minute** and reach speeds of approximately **70 miles per hour.**
- Loons can live **up to 30 years**, but most die before reaching 20 years old.
- Loons need **healthy lake habitats** and ecosystems to survive and thrive.

Loon Rescue

If you encounter an injured, entangled or beached loon in Wisconsin, call **Loon Rescue, Inc: 715-966-5415** with the location.