

Membership Form

Michigan Loon Preservation Association

A 501 C3 Nonprofit Organization

Yes! I want to help preserve the Common Loon in Michigan by joining the MLPA.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Email: _____

Membership Fees

- ☐ **Individual:** \$20
- ☐ **Organization:** \$50
- ☐ **Golden Loon:** \$100
- ☐ **Benefactor / Life:** \$1,000
- ☐ **Additional Donation:** \$ _____

Get Annual Newsletter by Email: YES _____ NO _____

(It costs us to print and mail. Help us save.)

Enclosed is my membership fee for the current year.
(Includes subscription MLPA newsletter, decal, voting privileges and help to ing support the loons).

Mail to: MLPA Membership
10181 Sheridan Road | Millington, MI 48746

Applications received after Oct. 15th will not expire until

December 31st of the following year.

Please visit us @

MichiganLoons.org



WATERCRAFT AFFECT LOONS

Canoes slip quietly into nesting areas and can startle loons off nests. Fishing Boats, especially bass and pike anglers, spend lots of time in waters perfect for nest sites. If you see loons, fish someplace else. Hooking a loon is illegal.

Wake Boats send 2 foot waves crashing into the nests. Personal Watercraft can speed at 83 feet per second in shallow water and may run over chicks, instantly killing them.

PLEASE OBEY ALL LOON

BUOYS AND SIGNS

Floating buoys are placed to mark loon nesting areas, serving as a warning that a nest is nearby. Loons also issue a distinctive warning call, which resembles a laugh. Be sure to listen for this call and take it seriously. It means, "PLEASE MOVE AWAY".



If you see a loon "dancing" straight up out of the water and slapping the surface with its wings, it's a sign that you are intruding on its territory. It's crucial to respect their space and move away. Loons rely on the peace and solitude of Michigan's lakes to breed and raise their young.

WHAT EVERYONE CAN DO

Enjoy these magnificent birds from a distance—listen to their haunting, beautiful calls and appreciate the serene environment. But remember, if loons are driven away, your own moments of solitude might be slipping away, too.

MICHIGAN'S LOONS



AND RESPONSIBLE WATERCRAFT USE

Michigan is home to many natural wonders, including its stunning lakes.

One such treasure is the Common Loon, renowned for its eerie calls and striking black-and-white breeding plumage. These lakes serve as vital summer nesting grounds for the loons.

Boaters are often drawn to these serene waters, which can bring them into close proximity with the loons. Practicing responsible boating ensures that both people and loons can continue to coexist peacefully on Michigan's lakes.

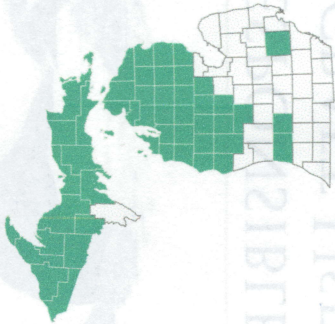
MichiganLoons.org



*This brochure is funded partly by a Grant from the Michigan DNR
Natural Heritage Grants Program Nongame Wildlife Fund.*

THE COMMON LOON

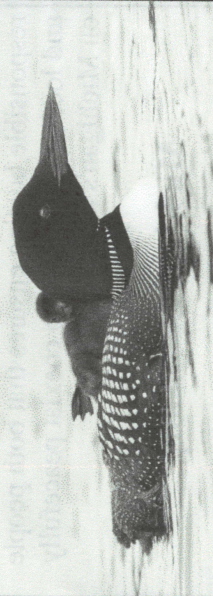
Common Loons are large, goose-sized birds with striking black and white plumage, primarily feeding on fish. During the summer, they inhabit open freshwater lakes, while in the winter, they migrate to the seacoast. These loons typically measure between 2 to 3 feet in length, weigh 8 to 12 pounds, and have an impressive wingspan of 4 to 5 feet. With the exception of a few isolated lakes in southern Michigan, loons in the state primarily nest in the upper half of the Lower Peninsula and throughout the entire Upper Peninsula.



NURSERY ROOM

During the months of June, July, and August, loon chicks rest, feed, and grow in and around their territory. Keep an eye out for them in backwaters and along the shoreline, where they spend much of their time as they develop and learn from their parents.

Loons can typically stay off their eggs for only a short period—usually no more than a few hours—without risking harm to the developing chicks.



MichiganLoons.org



MICHIGAN'S NESTING LOONS

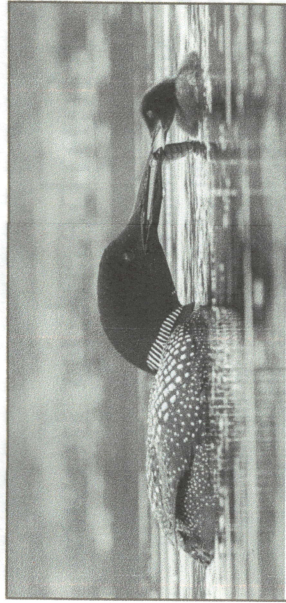
It is estimated that fewer than 500 nesting pairs of Common Loons remain in Michigan, and the actual number may be even lower. As a result, the Common Loon is considered a threatened species in the state. These loons typically build their nests on small islands or in quiet bays, coves, and inlets—areas that are especially vulnerable to disturbances from personal watercraft. The nesting season, which occurs in May and June, is the most critical time for the loons. Unlike ducks and geese, which have larger broods, loons typically lay only two eggs. Both parents share the responsibility of incubating these eggs, which takes 28-29 days to hatch.



BOAT TRAFFIC CAN CAUSE LOSS OF EGGS!

Loon parents will abandon their nests if watercraft come within 150 yards—roughly the length of one and a half football fields—leaving the eggs without warmth or protection. Without their parents, the eggs become vulnerable to predators. **The powerful two-foot waves created by wake boats can wash over the nest, potentially destroying the eggs and eliminating the chance to hatch two potential loons.** If disturbed too frequently, loons may abandon the nest altogether.

While they may attempt to re-nest if it's early enough in the season, they only have two chances to successfully raise their young.



BOAT TRAFFIC CAN CAUSE LOSS OF CHICKS!

Young chicks are not waterproof!

They rely on their parents to help keep them warm and dry by climbing onto their backs. When watercraft approach, parents are forced to leave their chicks behind to defend their territory.

Young chicks are very buoyant!

They can't dive quickly enough to avoid danger, making them vulnerable to being run over—especially by fast-moving jet skis traveling at speeds of 40-60 mph (83 feet per second). For these newborn chicks, it may be the first and last thing they encounter on their lake.

Chicks tire easily!

The presence of watercraft forces chicks to keep swimming instead of resting or feeding, which can weaken them and impact their chances of survival. Please enjoy at a distance, bring your binoculars.

Especially stay well away from loon territories when using Jet Skis and Wake Boats. All boaters need to keep away.

**To report harassment of Loons, call the
DNR: 1-800-292-7800**