

## **TIPS TO HELP PROTECT LOONS:**

### **PROTECT SHORELINE HABITAT**

- ❖ Follow shoreline regulations.
- ❖ Do not build in areas where loons have nested in the past.
- ❖ Leave natural vegetation around shorelines.
- ❖ Minimize water level fluctuations
- ❖ Leave large rocks, logs, and other woody debris in the water along the shore.
- ❖ Reduce pollution.
- ❖ Remove plant material from watercraft.



### **MINIMIZE HUMAN DISTURBANCE**

- ❖ Understand Common Loon behavior and vocalizations.
- ❖ Please observe loons at a distance of at least 500 feet. Binoculars and cameras with long lenses help.
- ❖ Observe no wake zones and speed limits.
- ❖ When paddling a canoe or kayak, keep away from the shoreline to avoid flushing a loon off its nest.
- ❖ Report harassment of loons to your local environmental conservation officer.
- ❖ Fish responsibly. Please use non-lead fishing tackle and pick up abandoned fishing line.
- ❖ Avoid loud noises during the breeding season.

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This project was supported by Wild Gift, [www.wildgift.org](http://www.wildgift.org). Wild Gift is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to give exceptional leaders, ages 21-30, a compelling experience in deep wilderness and the support to launch a self-designed project that promotes the stewardship of wild nature and development of sustainable communities.



### **COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- ❖ Wildlife Conservation Society's Adirondack Program, [www.wcs.org/Adirondacks](http://www.wcs.org/Adirondacks)
- ❖ Adirondack Park Agency, [www.apa.state.ny.us](http://www.apa.state.ny.us)
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### **LEARN MORE!**

To download a pdf of the complete wildlife conservation guidelines, please visit:

[www.wcs.org/adirondackloons](http://www.wcs.org/adirondackloons)  
[www.briloon.org/science-and-conservation/  
centers/adirondackloons.php](http://www.briloon.org/science-and-conservation/centers/adirondackloons.php)

## **LOONS AND PEOPLE: GUIDELINES FOR "NESTING" TOGETHER ON ADIRONDACK LAKES**



**WILD GIFT**  
[www.wildgift.org](http://www.wildgift.org)

## INTRODUCTION

The Common Loon (*Gavia inner*), with its unique summer plumage, eerie red eyes, and haunting calls, is an icon of wilderness throughout the Adirondack Park. As development and human activity increases in the Park, the survival of the Common Loon and other wildlife may become threatened. People and loons need to coexist on Adirondack lakes to ensure that this emblematic species is present for future generations.



These guidelines provide information about issues that arise due to the overlap of loon nesting habitat with lakeshore development and recreational boating activities.

It is important to understand the habitat requirements and loon warning signs of distress to help ensure the success of breeding loons. By increasing awareness and knowledge of Common Loon behavior and breeding habitat, these guidelines will enable people who share lakes with loons to better protect this symbol of the wilderness.

## LOON BREEDING HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ Lake Characteristics: Loons prefer lakes at least 25 acres in size with bays and islands for nesting.



- ❖ Nest Site: Loons nest on the shoreline of a lake or on islands, bog mats, rocks, and logs. Natural vegetation around the nest site is important to hide the nest from potential predators and humans.



- ❖ Feeding Habitat: Loons require clear water for fishing. Loons prefer to fish in shallow water close to the shoreline to catch small fish and crayfish.



- ❖ Nursery Area: A bay protected from wind and waves is important for protection of young chicks.

## LOON BEHAVIORAL SIGNS OF DISTURBANCE



Steadily Swimming Away



Hangover Position



Wing Row



Penguin Dance

## VOCAL SIGNS OF DISTURBANCE



Wail



Tremolo



Yodel