



Division of Ecological & Water Resources
Nongame Wildlife Program
1601 Minnesota Drive
Brainerd, MN 56401

Hello Loon Watchers!

After a brief hiatus in 2019, the Loon Watcher survey is re-launching in 2020! Time was taken in 2019 to re-evaluate the program objectives, compile the data collected, and revise the survey methodology in attempts to better capture insights into the health of our state's loon populations.

What began modestly in 1979 with 56 volunteers on 73 Lakes has grown to over 300 volunteers encompassing almost 400 Minnesota lakes. This incredible dataset has provided essential insights into Minnesota loon biology, behavior and population dynamics. We are incredibly thankful for the volunteer enthusiasm, expertise, and commitment to our Loon Watcher Survey over the first 39 years. Without you, this program would not be possible.

Now entering our 40th year of monitoring loons, there is still growing interest in protecting and watching over our state bird. Your enthusiasm for this important work is greatly appreciated. Enclosed is your Volunteer Loon Watcher Survey packet for 2020.

In this year's packet you will find the following:

- Survey form for your lake – to summarize your observations throughout the season
- Map of your lake – to record nesting locations
- A filled out example of the survey form and map
- Survey instructions and tips – to assist you with your observations
- Loon nesting platform tips – to help you with the decision of whether or not a loon platform is needed
- Volunteer Agreement – one time form to be signed

Please note: If you have interest in “Loon Watching” multiple lakes, a survey form and map will need to be completed for each lake surveyed. Please reach out to the Loon Watcher Coordinator via the contact information below to request additional survey forms and lake maps. We encourage you to coordinate efforts with other residents and your lake association.

Don't forget to “**Look for the Loon**” on your Minnesota income and property tax forms. It's your opportunity to make a tax deductible donation to help loons and other wildlife. Or donate online at the website listed below.

Sincerely,

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