**Volunteer Loon Watcher Survey**

**Observer Name:**

**Address:**

**Telephone:**

**Email Address:**

**Lake:**

**DOW:**

**County:**

**Lake Size:**

**Mode of Observation** **Equipment Used** **Percent (%) of Disturbed/Developed Shoreline**

󠄀 Shoreline 󠄀 Binoculars 󠄀 0% - No disturbed or developed shoreline.

󠄀 Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 󠄀 Spotting Scope 󠄀 0-25%

󠄀 Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 󠄀 26-50%

󠄀 51-75%

󠄀 76-100% - Lake surrounded by cabins, or other development.

**Lake Ice Data (Optional)**

Date ice completely melted in the spring: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date ice completely formed in the fall: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(mm/dd/yyyy)

**Please record observed nesting locations on the enclosed map.**

**I**

**Please submit this form no later than December 1st**

|  | **Date** | **Survey Minutes** | **Area of the Lake Surveyed** | **#**  **Adult**  **Loons Observed** | **#**  **Active Nests Observed** | **#**  **Juvenile Loons Observed** | **Observations and Comments**  (Ex. Human disturbance, eagle interaction, nest status, etc.) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ex.** | 7/15/23 | 25 | Wilson Bay | 2 | 0 | 2 | Kayaker caused loon to leave nest. Loon returned to nest. |
| **1** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **2** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **3** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **4** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **5** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **6** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **7** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **8** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **9** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **10** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **11** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Table 1

\* See instructions on the back.

**Instructions**

**Quick reminders**

* Please survey your lake at least once per month from May through August.
* It is best to survey for loons between sunrise and noon on calm clear days with binoculars and/or spotting scopes.
* Each day surveyed needs its own corresponding row filled out.
* Interested in learning more about the most effective way to survey your lake? Contact the Loon Watcher Survey Coordinator.

**Mode of observation**

* Please record your mode of observation (Ex. Shoreline, dock, etc.).

**Lake ice data**

* Ice off/on dates should only be recorded if observed. Approximated dates should not be included.

**Nesting locations**

* A lake map is enclosed to record observed loon nesting locations. These can include artificial platforms, both platforms used and unused throughout the season.
* Please label nest locations with a numeric label (Ex., N1, N2, etc.) and the date they were first observed.

**Area of the lake surveyed**

* Specify whether a portion or the entire lake was surveyed (Ex. Southwest cove, entire lake, etc.). If surveying multiple loon territories, please use a separate line.

**# Active nests observed**

* An active nest can be defined as: adult loons observed nest building, an adult loon sitting on a nest, unattended eggs in a nest, or chicks observed hatching.

**# Adult and juvenile loons observed**

* Please record the number of adult loons and juvenile loons observed. If you are unable to tell due to changes in breeding plumage in the fall, please comment.

**Brief observations and comments:**

* Please record additional behavioral or locational data (Ex. Human disturbance caused loon to leave nest). Please keep comments limited to space provided to ensure proper utility of data. If you would like to provide additional comments, please attach them to the survey forms.

**Returning the Data Form**

* **All forms must be returned to the Loon Watcher Coordinator no later than December 1st.**
* Items to send back to the Loon Watcher Coordinator include:
  + Completed data form(s). Be sure all of the data has been filled on the form. We cannot use incomplete data.
  + Map with locations of loon nests observed

**Remember**

* Ask permission before crossing private land.
* Be safe! Please see your volunteer agreement or contact the Loon Watcher Survey Coordinator for resources.
* Be Loon Aware! View loons from a distance and give loons space.

**Questions? Please contact the Loon Watcher Survey Coordinator by email at** [**LoonWatcherSurvey.DNR@state.mn.us**](mailto:LoonWatcherSurvey.DNR@state.mn.us)