



June 2021

The Canadian Lakes Loon Survey of Birds Canada has educational signs and factsheets that encourage conservation of lakes, loons, and other waterbirds. There are three different signs, a poster, a colourful factsheet, and a web and newsletter-friendly tips page, each of which is designed for a specific purpose as described further below.

- 1) **The Loon Alert** sign is educational and is printed on corrugated plastic. It can be placed at public boat ramps, docks, laundromats, stores, and other locations where people will have a few spare moments for reading. It contains loon and waterbird-friendly tips for lake users. Our latest edition is now available by special order and we ask for a donation to cover printing, shipping, and handling, as each sign costs \$7.00 and shipping is a minimum of \$15 per package. Alternatively, you can request the print-ready file and have it printed yourself. The print file is designed for a 12" x 18" yard sign that is readily available through many suppliers. You can also contact Kathy to arrange customized bulk orders that include your group or association's logo and/or contact information. Groups are encouraged to order multiple signs at a time to ensure more cost-effective shipping.
- 2) **The Nest Alert** sign is printed on corrugated plastic and is designed to be placed near nest locations that are disturbed by people. Use of this sign depends on the site and is only recommended at nests that are highly exposed, in high-traffic areas, or at risk to significant disturbance. They are not appropriate for well-hidden nests or nests in remote, undisturbed locations. This sign may also work to decrease activity and boat speed when placed at the mouth of a bay where a well-concealed nest is located. To use this sign you will need: 3 - 6 signs per nest, a buoy to float each sign (instructions provided), ensure that you comply with all applicable laws and regulations, and ensure that you remove all of the signs after the chicks hatch. To order this sign contact Kathy directly. There are no fees, but we ask that you provide a donation to cover the cost of shipping and handling.
- 3) The customized **Sensitive Habitat** sign is designed to assist partners in protecting sensitive areas along their lakeshore, such as loon nesting sites, loon chick nursery locations, or fish spawning habitat. This sign is available to Lake Associations and other groups who would like to partner in advocating the protection of sensitive areas on their lake. Both Birds Canada and the association logos and contact information will be included and the text can be adjusted to suit partner needs. Note that it is the responsibility of the partner to decide, as a group, the best locations to place this sign.
- 4) The **Top Six Ways to Help Loons** poster is designed with Lake Associations and store managers in mind. It is downloadable from our website and can be printed at low cost in either tabloid (11" x 17") or legal (8.5" x 14") size using the print-to-fit option. We recommend tabloid size on foam core for association events or legal size on a bulletin board or in a store window.

P.O. Box 160, 115 Front Road  
Port Rowan, Ontario Canada N0E 1M0

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5) The [Loons Need Your Help](#) factsheet is 8" x 12". It is downloadable from our website and is best printed as a small poster. This document can also be requested from Kathy as a two-sided, bilingual pdf file.

6) The [Loon and Lake Conservation Tips](#) is a web and newsletter-friendly photo image (single page). The purpose is to share the best ways to help ensure a loon-friendly lake and a wildlife-friendly shoreline. Contact Kathy if you need a different version of the document (.rtf or .pdf).

For all the above products you will need two versions to provide both official languages. [The Loon Alert](#) sign, [Top Six Ways](#) poster, as well as the [Loons Need Your Help](#) and [Loon and Lake Conservation Tips](#) factsheets are provided in English or in French. [The Nest Alert](#) sign has English on one side and French on the other; this allows bilingual signage when two signs are displayed on a buoy, given the backside of each sign is hidden by / attached to the buoy. Both of the corrugated plastic signs should last close to 10 years before needing to be replaced and they also include a location where you can add your association name or stamp.

Anyone interested in using these resources are free to do so, as long as they are associated with the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey of Birds Canada.

Sincerely,



Kathy Jones  
Volunteer Manager, Canadian Lakes Loon Survey  
[volunteer@birdscanada.org](mailto:volunteer@birdscanada.org)  
1-888-448-2473 ext. 124



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# LOON ALERT



Please remember, we share our lakes with loons and other wildlife.

**Slow your boat down where loons nest.** Loons nest near the water's edge in protected coves, around small islands, and in marshy areas. Approaching boats, even quiet canoes, can cause loons to leave their nests and eggs unprotected. Loon nests can be flooded by waves created by water craft.



**Steer clear of loons and their chicks.** Disrupting loon parents and their chicks distracts parents from feeding and protecting their chicks. If a nearby loon calls out in a tremolo (waveling laugh), especially if it rears up out of the water, please move away quickly and quietly.

**Play smart.** Operate play / wake boats only in water that is at least 8 m (24 feet) deep, which helps prevent sedimentation, protects wildlife, and makes for a better wake.

**Retrieve fishing line and tackle.** Loons may become entangled in fishing line and other refuse, restricting their ability to preen and dive and eventually leading to death.

**Dispose Responsibly.** Take trash and monofilament to shore to recycle or dispose of properly. Garbage including plastics and tackle can injure birds and other wildlife. Keep food and scraps contained, as they may increase the number of nest predators in the area.

**Use lead-free tackle.** Loons usually ingest lead fishing gear by eating a fish that has swallowed a jig or sinker and broken the line, or striking at tackle or a fish being retrieved by an angler. Lead poisoning and death typically result. Request lead-free alternatives at your local tackle shop.

**Keep your lake healthy.** Prevent water pollution from homes, boats and gardens and keep your shoreline vegetated. These simple actions will help keep our lakes and freshwater clean to the benefit of humans and wildlife, including loons.

Loons are protected by the Migratory Birds Convention Act  
For more information on loon and lake conservation visit [birdscanada.org/loons](http://birdscanada.org/loons)



Place your agency, association or business name here:



## TOP 6 WAYS YOU CAN HELP LOONS

- Keep it Wild**  
Let native wetland plants grow along your shoreline, or replant if the shoreline is bare. Natural shorelines provide shelter and food for both fish and loons.
- Keep it Calm**  
Slow down near wetlands and shorelines and keep your wake to a minimum. Waves can wash out nests or separate young loons from their parents, which makes chicks easy pickings for predators.
- Steer Clear**  
Slow down and steer clear of loons, waterbirds, and other wildlife. They may not be able to escape your path; if adults become separated from their young, they can't protect them.
- Dispose Responsibly**  
Take trash and fishing line to shore for proper disposal. Garbage including plastics and tackle can injure birds and other wildlife. Keep food and scraps contained, as they may increase predators around nests.
- Reduce Your Impact**  
Use less electricity and fossil fuels. Climate change raises lake temperatures, which causes more heavy metals to accumulate in wildlife tissues. Do not add pollutants, such as household hazardous wastes, to our rivers and lakes.
- Get Involved**  
Be an advocate for loons and lakes. Raise awareness of air pollution issues and join your lake association. Participate in open or lake monitoring.

BIRDS CANADA OISEAUX CANADA [birdscanada.org](http://birdscanada.org)

## LOON NESTING AREA

Please do not disturb

Loons are federally protected by the Migratory Birds Convention Act.

BIRD STUDIES CANADA Friends of the Environment Foundation

www.bird-study.org 1-888-448-2473 (BIRDS)

## Sensitive Habitat

Remember, we share our lakes and wetlands with wildlife raising their young.

Please

- remain outside of this sensitive habitat, and
- slow down within 30 m of the shoreline,
- don't wake surf near this location

Your cooperation helps vulnerable wildlife species.

This signage has been placed by your lake neighbour (please sign here):

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