

## Canadian Lakes Loon Survey: Educational Signs Initiative

Bird Studies Canada's Canadian Lakes Loon Survey have developed educational signs to target loon conservation but the practices mentioned relate just as well to other waterbirds that use lakes and rivers.

There are two signs each for a specific purpose:

- 1) The **Loon Alert** signs are educational in nature and can be placed at locations where people will have a few spare moments for reading (ramps, docks, Laundromats, beer stores etc.). They contain loon/waterbird friendly tips for lake users.
- 2) The **Nest Alert** signs are to be placed near appropriate nest locations. These are more specific and are recommended for nests in obvious locations, in high traffic areas, or at risk to significant disturbance. They are not appropriate for well-hidden nests. The Nest Alert signs may also work to decrease activity and boat speed when placed at the mouth of a bay (where a loon nest is or suspected to be hidden). You need 3 - 6 signs per nest and you will need to build buoys (instructions) and check waterway regulations and/or local jurisdictions.

Both types of signs have English on one side and French on the other, this allows bi-lingual signage when two signs are displayed. They are corrugated plastic and should last close to 10 years before needing to be replaced.

The Loon Alert and Nest Alert signs are free of charge to those who have an appropriate location for their use but they are also expensive to mail (~\$7.00 per package) thus I ask that you provide an up to date address that the signs can be shipped to (prior to march). Also, it is more cost effective for me to mail the signs in small quantities (than one at a time) thus if you have several good locations to place signs, or belong to an organization that can distribute or display multiple signs, feel free to ask for as many signs as you think you can use.

Bird Studies Canada would like to thank the Arthur/Mount Forest, Kapuskasing, Muskoka, North Bay, Ottawa Area, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Southern Georgian Bay, and Thunder Bay chapters of the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation for their support of the 2005/2006 CLLS survey and education activities.

Sincerely,  
Kathy Jones  
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Canadian commitment  
à l'environnement



# LOON ALERT



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

- **Slow down your boat where loons nest.** Loons nest near the water's edge in protective coves, near 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 ("crazy-laugh") while rearing up out of the water, please move away quickly and quietly.
- **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. Please dispose of fishing line and other refuse in appropriate containers.
- **Use lead-free tackle.** Loons ingest small pebbles to help digest their food. If they mistakenly swallow lead sinkers and jigs, lead poisoning and eventually death may occur. Request lead-free alternatives at your local tackle shop.



Loons are federally protected by the  
Migratory Birds Convention Act.



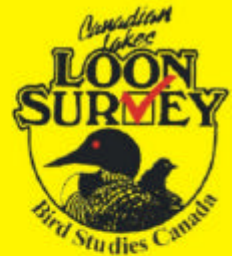
www.bsc-ebc.org  
1-888-448-2473 (BIRD)



Place your agency or business  
stamp here.

Sign number

# LOON NESTING AREA Please do not disturb



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stamp here.

Sign number