

Tips for Viewing Loons

- You can observe fascinating behaviors by maintaining a respectful distance and allowing loons to focus on taking care of themselves and their chicks.
- Boat slowly in the vicinity of loons and stop at least 150 feet away. The loons may come closer or they may move away; please let them decide how close they wish to be, and please don't pursue a loon or loon family for a closer view.
- Use binoculars to observe loons without getting too close and causing them to swim away.

By following these tips, you can get wonderful insights into loons' daily lives!

Enjoy watching the loons!

The Mission of the Loon Preservation Committee

LPC's mission is to restore and maintain a healthy population of loons throughout New Hampshire; to monitor the health and productivity of loon populations as sentinels of environmental quality; and to promote a greater understanding of loons and the natural world.

To learn more about loons, please visit
The Loon Center at 183 Lee's Mill Road,
Moultonborough, NH



Loon Preservation Committee

PO Box 604, Moultonborough, NH 03254

(603) 476-LOON; www.loon.org

Cover photo courtesy of Kittie Wilson

*Other photos courtesy of Mark Wilson, except for
"penguin dance" picture*

Understanding Loons: Learn to Read the Signs



Loon Preservation Committee

www.loon.org

Relaxed loons



A relaxed loon (holding its head up while on the nest) is able to incubate and hatch its eggs successfully.

This loon is calm and able to carry out normal behaviors to care for itself and its family.



Enjoy watching loons in these positions!



Flapping their wings is a normal part of preening and bathing for loons.

Loons also flap their wings to send warning signals to an approaching threat.

Boaters who see this behavior not associated with preening or bathing should back away from the loon.

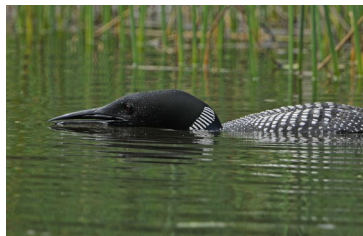
Concerned loons

Loons may show stress in subtle ways. Be alert for changes in head and neck posture that may tell you a loon is feeling threatened.



A nervous loon will often raise the feathers on its forehead to give this "squared-off" look.

This loon is aware of a potential threat and is stretching its neck to evaluate the situation.



This loon is watching a possible threat while trying to appear inconspicuous.

If you see a loon in these positions, please back away and allow the loon to resume its normal behavior.

Stressed loons



When loons feel threatened while on the nest, they will put their heads down. This position indicates the loon may flush from the

nest and leave the eggs to overheat, chill, or be taken by a predator.

If you see a loon on a nest with its head down, please back away!



If a boat is too close, a loon may call and/or perform a distraction display called a "penguin dance"—rearing

up in the water with its wings either spread out or clasped against its body and rapidly paddling its feet in the water.

If you see this display, please leave the area!

Any vocalization given when you are close to or approaching a loon can indicate distress. Please back away!