

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK LOON OBSERVATION FORM

Lake Name _____ Observers _____ Address _____
 Phone _____ Email _____ Date _____
 Weather (temp., wind, precip...) _____ Time Observed (Start/Stop) _____
 Volunteer Loon Observer Service Hours (total driving, hiking and observation time) _____

Instructions: 1. At a minimum, fill out the general information above, the summary box below, and the attached map. Locate and label loon locations, nesting areas, nursery areas, observation points and watercraft on the map. 2. Note significant observations of loon interactions, nesting, chick rearing, loon/human interactions, predators, eagles, ravens and other waterfowl. (Loon behaviors using timed intervals may also be indicated in the lower table.) 3. Do not record behaviors in lower table if loons are reacting to your presence (Record this on the Significant Observations Line). 4. Note the presence of natural nests. 5. Note the absence of loons as well if you don't observe any.

Summary			(brown & white adult-sized bird)	(young of the year)
# of Pairs _____	# of Singles _____	Total Adults _____	# of Subadults _____	# of Chicks/Juveniles _____
			Chick Stage: (Downy young) (Small young) (Large young)	
# People (on shore) _____	#/type of Boats (in water) _____	Confirmed Nesting (Y/N) _____	Nest Status: (Incubating) (Abandoned) (Hatched)	
Significant Observations _____				
GPS locations of nest site or other significant observations (in NAD 83) _____				

Banded Birds? Color of Bands _____ Loon: (A1, C1...) _____ Left Leg: closest to body _____ / closest to foot _____ Right Leg: closest to body _____ / closest to foot _____

Loon Behavior Key:

B1 Diving/feeding, self B2 Diving/feeding, chick B3 Swimming B4 Preening B5 Sleeping/loafing B6 Flying B7 Call – tremelo	B8 Call – wail B9 Call - hoot B10 Call – flight tremelo B11 Chick riding on adult T1 Call –yodel (territorial) T2 Call –tremelo/yodel T3 Territorial – approach	T4 Territorial – raised neck T5 Territorial – upright wingflap T6 Territorial - circling, bill dipping, diving T7 Territorial – penguin dance T8 Territorial – surface rush T9 Territorial – chasing/attack T10 Territorial – harrassment diving	M1 Courtship – mutual bill dipping/diving M2 Courtship – ashore nest test M3 Courtship – copulation N1 Nesting – nest building N2 Nesting – incubation N3 Nesting – left nest
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Time Interval (Start) (Stop)	Adult 1 (A1) of pair	Adult 2 (A2) of pair	Other Adults (A3, A4...)	Chick 1 (C1)	Chick 2 (C2)	# People on Shore	#/ type Boats in Water	Eagles or Ravens in the area?	Comments
10:15-10:25	B1, T2	N1				12	3 (canoe)	Y (2 eagles)	EXAMPLE

BEHAVIOR DEFINITION

- T1) Yodel** – Territorial call given by the male loon, usually given when another male flies over the territory or in a territorial encounter.
- T3) Approach** – A pair approaching an intruder loon, other waterfowl or boat
- T4) Raised Neck** – A heightened alertness and is an easy clue that something is disturbing the birds.
- T5) Upright Wing-flap** – The loons to rise up out of the water and flap their wings with white breasts towards the intruder. This is a long distance signal to an intruder (loon or boat) that the territory is occupied.
- T6) Circling** – The resident pair and the intruder loon move around each other in a circle.
- Bill Dipping** – A repeated sequence of raising the neck/head and a dipping of the face into the water. A nervous gesture, which occurs as the loons come within a close distance of the intruder.
- Mutual Dive** – Jerky head movements followed by shallow dives by 1 or more loons.
- T7) Penguin Dance** – The birds raise up vertically out of the water, treading water with their feet. Sometimes they slap the water with their wings. This is the most aggressive territorial behavior.
- T8) Surface Rush** – Usually follows Penguin Dance. The “dancing” bird falls forward into the water and continues the momentum as an underwater torpedo.
- T9) Chasing** – Occurs on the surface as the loon uses their wings in an “oaring” motion to chase off an intruder.
- Attack** – Loons will attack other birds, such as grebes.
- T10) Harassment Diving** – Loons will harass waterfowl by diving and resurfacing under the offending bird.

Return form within one week of observation to:

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