

# 2015 Vermont Loonwatch Data Form

**Saturday, July 18**

Lakes less than 300 acres: 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  
Lakes greater than 300 acres: 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Vermont Loon Recovery Project (VLRP)  
Vermont Center for Ecostudies / Vermont Fish and Wildlife

Craftsbury, VT 05826 (802) 586-8064  
www.vtecostudies.org  
ehanson@vtecostudies.org

(If survey on different date or time: \_\_\_\_\_)

**Pond/Lake Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (home): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of observers: \_\_\_\_\_

Observation Time: beginning \_\_\_\_\_ end \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* If you cannot survey your lake** during the designated time or the make-up dates (a) July 18 anytime, (b) July 17 or 19, **contact Eric Hanson ASAP (802) 586-8064**

	Time	# Adults	# Chicks	# Subadults	Location/Direction
<b>Example:</b>	<u>8:17</u>	<u>1</u>	_____	____(immatures)____	<u>Swimming north on eastern shore</u>
1)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTALS:** Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Chicks: \_\_\_\_\_ Subadults (1-2 yr.old, white throat, gray back): \_\_\_\_\_

## Notes/Instructions:

- 1) Record only the first sighting of each loon. Keep track of where the loon is moving. Do not count a loon twice.
  - 2) Observe for a minimum of 30 minutes for small lakes (< 50 acres) and up to several hours for larger lakes. For shoreline observers, observe for at least 10 minutes from each vantage point. A diving loon can move a long way and may surface for only a few seconds. Loons near shore are more difficult to "pick out". It can take time for the loon to "appear".
  - 3) Remember, a report of zero loons is just as biologically important as a count of 10 loons.
  - 4) TIP: if surveying by boat, stop every ¼ to ½ mile and scan w/ binoculars ahead of and behind you for a few minutes. Stay 200-300 feet from shore and either circle round-shaped lakes, or zig zag down narrow or wide elongated lakes.
  - 5) For larger lakes and lakes with intermittent reporting in the past, there may be more than one volunteer assigned to the lake.
- \*\* If you visited the lake at any other time, record the date and # of loons observed:** \_\_\_\_\_
- \*\* Please note any osprey or bald eagle sightings during your survey:** \_\_\_\_\_

## SUBMITTING DATA: NEW- please use VT ebird to enter your survey results online

- If more than 2 groups of loons observed and/or for lakes greater than 300 acres, draw a simple sketch of the lake below or on another sheet of paper and mark where loons were observed.
  - MAIL this form to Eric Hanson. VLCP, PO Box 22, Craftsbury, VT 05826
- For all lakes of all sizes, enter your data online at VT ebird. Instructions on the backside of this form.

# Instructions for entering Loon Surveys on VT ebird

\* Please enter your data on VT ebird: Adopt-a-lake, Casual Surveys, and LoonWatch Day.

\* For non-territorial lakes and Loonwatch Day (3rd Sat. of July), you do not need to forward to Eric.

VT ebird: <http://ebird.org/content/vt>

a) Register

b) Choose: "Submit observations"

c) Choose "Find it on a map"

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d) Find the lake you surveyed (use "zoom to" box to enter town name, then zoom and or click, hold, and drag to find lake, OR

You can also type in lake name followed by town and VT.

e) Click red icon on lake (note **# acres** in Location box to enter later). Click "continue."

f) **Date and Effort:** Enter date. Observation type: click "other" and then choose "Loonwatch", Fill in other information.

Click "continue."

g) **What did you see and hear:** Scroll down to "Common Loon."

Enter total number adults, juveniles (chicks), and immatures (subadults) observed.

Click "add details" for distinguishing adults, chicks, and territory/loon locations.

1) Details: if surveying a large lake with multiple loon pairs, please give location about

groups of loons or each territorial pair e.g., Peacham P. SW 2 adults and 1 chick;

Peacham N - 1 adult on nest, 1 adult on water, 3 other adults in middle of pond

2) Click "age/sex" to report # of adults, juveniles (chicks), and immatures (subadults).

You will enter #'s in "sex unknown" row, even if 2 adults together.

3) Breeding code: check appropriate box if applicable.

4) Enter other bird species observed during your outing if you wish.

5) Are you entering a complete checklist. Click "no" unless you conducted a survey of all birds observed and heard. Click "submit."

h) Checklist: review your data and forward report to Eric Hanson, VLCP coordinator.

**If surveying a territorial pair, nesting, or chicks, hit "share with others in your party"**

**to send to Eric Hanson, [ehanson@vtecostudies.org](mailto:ehanson@vtecostudies.org).**

Type in the email in the "To" box and hit "share checklist."

Thank you for your submission.