

Focused Loon Surveys - Vermont Loon Conservation Project / Vermont Center for Ecostudies

Help us fill in the gaps on lakes and ponds where we could use more loon surveys. Is there a pair present this year? Has the pair nested yet? Are they still on nest? Have the chicks hatched out? Or, did the chicks make it through the summer to fledging age? We also want surveys from lakes where loon activity is not well documented. Do loons even use a specific pond or is a pair possibly forming? Knowing which ponds loons do not use helps us guide our efforts.

These focused loon surveys are ideal for people who like to get out to lakes but may not have the time to consistently observe a lake throughout the summer. **And you can go at any time and report in.** It's a great excuse to explore new areas or visit favorite haunts.

The Focused Loon Survey lists do not include lakes with highly active volunteers. Feel free to survey any lake in the state and report your findings even those not included here. Some of these lakes might have "adopt-a-lake" volunteers, but additional surveys will help us better assess territory status, etc.

Lake Categories

- Priority 1 – territorial and nesting loons
- Priority 2 – potential pairs and recent two-loon sightings
- Priority 3 – tend to be smaller, occasional loon sightings, no breeding history

There are FOUR Focused Loon Survey lists:

- **Focused loon surveys - all season** (comprehensive – includes all lakes where we could use more surveys, including priority 3 lakes)
 - **Focused loon surveys - nesting/pair formation** (May/June)
 - **Focused loon surveys - nesting/nest outcome** (June/July)
 - **Focused loon surveys- chick survival** (August)
- The latter three focused surveys include breeding pairs (priority 1) and potential territories (priority 2) where we are lacking information during specific times of the breeding season (nesting, nest outcome, chick survival). These lists will be updated occasionally as information comes in. Contact Eric Hanson directly for details, nest locations, etc. to plan your visit. The "all-season" list is comprehensive and includes priority 3 lakes where loons have tended to be less active, but it'd be helpful to have more surveys conducted.

Instructions and guideline on next page

INSTRUCTIONS

- Boat or shorelines surveys: the list includes a column if a boat is necessary or if doable from shore.
- Region: Lists are sorted by region of the state.
- The time-specific lists are focused around territorial loons (nesting, nest success, chicks). Add a priority 3 lake from the “all-season” list if you have time to add a few smaller lakes to your outing.
- Conducting Surveys
 1. Surveys can be conducted at any time, all spring and summer.
 2. Calm water is helpful for larger lakes; make a note if choppy water or difficult survey conditions.
 3. Partial vs. entire lake survey
 - a. Priority 1 lakes can focus on the territorial pair (partial survey).
 - b. Priority 2 and 3 lakes – make a note if survey was of entire lake or partial lake survey. E.g., observation from boat access of about 80% of pond, could not see bay to the north.
 4. **READ: Etiquette for confirming nests and checking on nest success.** IF you know where the nest is located, observe from a distance. NEVER approach a known nest closely; always use binoculars. If you do not know where the nest is located, contact Eric for details on the best way to observe it. Only search shorelines by scanning from 50-100 meters out from shore. Nest warning signs are not used at all sites.
 5. **READ: Etiquette for observing nest success and chicks:** Watch from a distance. NEVER pursue a loon family. A loon swimming away from you is a stressed loon.
 6. Note eagle activity, extra loon activity, interactions with other loons, specific locations and landmarks if pertinent (e.g., nest/raft location, where extra loons were)
- Reporting Survey Results

If you survey a priority 1 or 2 lake (very loon active), please report survey results to the VLCP Coordinator soon after the survey. This helps us target when we need to survey that territory next.

Eric Hanson ehanson@vtcostudies.org 802-586-8065

OR

Enter in VT ebird online and SHARE survey result with Eric by entering his email.

VT ebird data input instructions:

- Go to <https://ebird.org/vt/home>
- Register or sign-in, submit observations (you can enter all birds observed or heard), find your lake, etc. Toward the end under review your data, make sure you hit the “share your checklist” box and enter Eric Hanson’s email: ehanson@vtcostudies.org
- For complete ebird entry instructions, find the pdf or video tutorial on the VCE website: common loon conservation/loonwatch/participate and scroll down to “Focused Loon Surveys”
- NOTES: Whether you send email directly to Eric Hanson or use VT ebird, there are places to make notes about your observations.

Examples of notes:

* adult on raft, 2nd adult on other side of lake.

* no loons near raft, 2 adults on water.

* 1 adult observed in SW area; did not find the nest site. Entire lake survey.

* 1 chick with 2 adults east end; 2 other adults west end. Not interacting.

* 3 adults swimming together, 0 chicks. I was told there was a successful hatch a week ago. Chick could have been stashed or is lost. I’ll come back next week to check again.

Thank you for making loon conservation happen in Vermont. The network of community science volunteers is key to monitoring how our loons are doing and guiding our management and research efforts.

Focused Loon Surveys - Nesting and Pair Formation

Vermont Loon Conservation Project (VLCP)
 Vermont Center for Ecostudies
www.vtecostudies.org

'Nesting and pair formation" focus on territories and where 2 loons have been reported recently.

Lake Categories

Priority 1 – territorial and nesting loons

Priority 2 – potential pairs and recent two-loon sightings

Priority 3 – tend to be smaller, occasional loon sightings, no breeding history

Other focused loon survey lists are available

Available at the VCE website www.vtecostudies.org under loon conservation/loonwatch/participate

* Focused loon surveys - all season (comprehensive list)

* Focused loon surveys - nesting/nest outcome (June/July)

* Focused loon surveys- chick survival (August)

The lakes on the lists focused on territory status are a subset of the "all season" list

These lists do not include nesting loon lakes with highly active volunteers.

Some of these lakes have volunteers already, but more surveys will help better assess pair status.

Fell free to survey any lake not on the focused loon survey lists - the more surveys, the more we know

If you survey a priority 1 or 2 lake, please report survey results to the VLCP Coordinator soon after the survey.

Eric Hanson, VLCP Coordinator, ehanson@vtecostudies.org 802-586-8065

or enter data on VT ebird and share your observaton with Eric (see VCE website for full ebird entry instructions)

Regions: cha-n: champlain valley north nc: north central
 ec: east central nek: northeast
 gm-s: green mountain south wc: west cental

Lake	Town	Region	Lake Area	best survey method	What to look for	Priority	Lake	Town	Region	Lake Area	best survey method	What to look for	Priority
Carmi	Franklin	cha-n	1401	boat	pair activity	2	Dog (valley)	Woodbury	nc	88	boat	territory status	1
Colchester	Colchester	cha-n	186	boat/shore	pair activity	2	Eden	Eden	nc	194	boat/shore	territory status	1
Fairfield	Fairfield	cha-n	446	boat	territory status	1	Elligo	Greensboro	nc	174	boat/shore	territory status	1
Fairlee - south	Fairlee	ec	457	boat	activity	2	Elmore	Elmore	nc	219	boat/shore	territory status	1
Halls	Newbury	ec	85	boat	territory status	1	Ewell	Peacham	nc	51	boat/shore	territory status	1
Miller	Strafford	ec	64	boat	territory status	1	Flagg	Wheelock	nc	111	boat	territory status	1
Morey	Fairlee	ec	547	boat/shore	pair activity	1	Great Hosmer	Craftsbury	nc	140	boat	territory status	1
Rood	Williamstown	ec	23	shore	loon activity	2	Green River	Hyde Park	nc	554	boat	territory status	1
Bourn	Sunderland	gm-s	48	hike	territory status	1	Groton	Groton	nc	422	boat	territory status	1
Branch	Sunderland	gm-s	34	hike/boat	territory status	1	Hardwick	Hardwick	nc	145	boat	territory status	1
Gale Meadows	Londonderry	gm-s	195	boat	pair activity	2	Harveys	Barnet	nc	351	boat	territory status	1

Lake	Town	Region	Lake Area	best survey method	What to look for	Priority	Lake	Town	Region	Lake Area	best survey method	What to look for	Priority
Grout	Stratton	gm-s	84	hike/boat	pair activity	2	Joe's - 1st pond	Danville	nc	396	boat/shore	territory status	1
Harriman	Whitingham	gm-s	2040	boat	pair activity	2	Joe's - inlet	Danville	nc	396	boat	territory status	1
Somerset	Somerset	gm-s	1568	boat	territory status	1	Keiser	Danville	nc	33	shore/boat	territory status	1
Stratton	Stratton	gm-s	46	hike	pair activity	2	Kettle	Peacham	nc	109	hike/boat	territory status	1
Sunset (Marlboro)	Marlboro	gm-s	96	boat/shore	territory status	1	Little Hosmer	Craftsbury	nc	180	boat	territory status	1
Wantastiquet	Weston	gm-s	44	shore	territory status	1	Long (Greensboro)	Greensboro	nc	100	hike	territory status	1
Berlin - north	Berlin	nc	293	boat/shore	territory status	1	Long (sheffield)	Sheffield	nc	38	hike	pair activity	2
Berlin - south	Berlin	nc	293	boat/shore	activity	2	Lower Symes	Ryegate	nc	77	boat	territory status	1
Caspian	Greensboro	nc	789	boat	activity	2	Lyford	Walden	nc	33	in	territory status	1
Coits	Cabot	nc	40	shore	pair activity	2	Mollys	Cabot	nc	38	shore	territory status	1
Curtis	Calais	nc	72	boat	territory status	1	Mollys Falls	Marshfield	nc	397	boat	territory status	1
Daniels	Glover	nc	66	shore/boat	territory status	1	Nelson	Woodbury	nc	133	shore/boat	pair activity	2
Daniels-west (Rodgers)	Glover	nc	15	shore	territory status	1	Noyes	Groton	nc	39	shore	pair activity	2
Osmore	Groton	nc	48	shore/boat	territory status	1	Inman	Fair Haven	wc	85	hike	pair activity	2
Parker	Glover	nc	250	boat/shore	territory status	1	Kent	Killington	wc	99	boat/shore	territory status	1
Peacham - east	Peacham	nc	340	boat	territory status	1	Knapp Br1	Cavendish	wc	25	boat/shore	territory status	1
Peacham - north	Peacham	nc	340	boat	territory status	1	Knapp Br2	Cavendish	wc	35	boat/shore	loon activity	2
Peacham - southwest	Peacham	nc	340	boat	territory status	1	Old Marsh	Fair Haven	wc	131	shore/boat	territory status	1
Shadow (Glover)	Glover	nc	210	boat/shore	pair activity	2	Rescue	Ludlow	wc	180	boat	pair activity	2
Thurman Dix	Orange	nc	123	shore	territory status	1	Silver (barnard)	Barnard	wc	84	boat/shore	pair activity	2
Ticklenaked	Ryegate	nc	54	shore/boat	territory status	1	Silver (Leicester)	Leicester	wc	101	shore	territory status	1
Turtlehead (Marshfield)	Marshfield	nc	69	outlet	pair activity	2	Spring	Shrewsbury	wc	66	boat/shore	territory status	1
Waterbury Res - North end	Waterbury	nc	839	boat	territory status	1	St. Catherine - north half	Wells	wc	883	boat	loon activity	2
Waterbury Res - South end	Waterbury	nc	839	boat	pair activity	2	St. Catherine - south half	Wells	wc	883	boat	loon activity	2
West Daniels	Glover	nc	20	shore	territory status	1	Sugar Hill Res.	Goshen	wc	63	shore/boat	territory status	1
West Hill	Cabot	nc	46	shore/boat	loon activity	2	Sunset (Benson)	Benson	wc	202	boat/shore	pair activity	2
Wolcott	Wolcott	nc	74	boat	territory status	1	Wallingford	Wallingford	wc	87	hike	territory status	1
Woodbury	Woodbury	nc	142	boat	territory status	1							
Zack Woods	Hyde Park	nc	23	shore/boat	territory status	1							
Bean (Sutton)	Sutton	nek	30	shore/boat	territory status	1							
Beaver	Holland	nek	40	hike	territory status	1							
Brownington	Brownington	nek	139	boat/shore	territory status	1							
Buck	Woodbury	nek	39	shore/boat	territory status	1							
Center	Newark	nek	79	boat/shore	pair activity	2							
Clyde	Derby	nek	186	shore/boat	territory status	1							
Comerford	Waterford	nek	777	boat	pair activity	2							
Crystal	Barton	nek	763	boat/shore	pair activity	2							

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Derby	Derby	nek	207	boat	territory status	1							
Great Averill	Averill	nek	828	boat	territory status	1							
Island	Brighton	nek	626	boat	territory status	1							
Jobs	Westmore	nek	39	shore/boat	territory status	1							
Lewis	Lewis	nek	68	shore/boat	territory status	1							
Little Averill	Averill	nek	467	boat	territory status	1							
Little Salem	Derby	nek	50	shore/boat	loon activity	2							
Maidstone	Maidstone	nek	745	boat	territory status	1							
May	Barton	nek	116	boat	territory status	1							
Memphremagog	Newport	nek	5966	boat	pair activity	2							
Moore	Waterford	nek	1235	boat	pair activity	2							
Neal	Lunenburg	nek	186	boat	territory status	1							
Pensioner	Charleston	nek	173	boat	territory status	1							
Salem	Derby	nek	764	boat/shore	pair activity	2							
Seymour	Morgan	nek	1769	boat	activity	2							
Shadow (Concord)	Concord	nek	128	boat	territory status	1							
Stiles	Waterford	nek	135	shore	territory status	1							
Wallace	Canaan	nek	532	boat/shore	pair activity	2							
West Mountain	Maidstone	nek	60	hike	territory status	1							
Willoughby	Westmore	nek	1653	boat/shore	pair activity	2							
Amherst (Plymouth)	Plymouth	wc	81	shore/boat	loon activity	2							
Bomoseen	Castleton	wc	2360	boat	loon activity	2							
Chittenden - east	Chittenden	wc	702	boat	territory status	1							
Chittenden - northeast	Chittenden	wc	702	boat	territory status	1							
Chittenden - west	Chittenden	wc	702	boat	pair activity	2							
Echo (plymouth)	Plymouth	wc	104	shore/boat	loon activity	2							
Fern	Leicester	wc	69	boat/shore	pair activity	2							
Glen	Fair Haven	wc	206	boat	territory status	1							
Hortonia	Hubbarton	wc	479	boat	pair activity	2							