

# 2021 Vermont Loonwatch Data Form

Vermont Loon Conservation Project (VLCP)  
Vermont Center for Ecostudies / Vermont Fish and Wildlife

**Saturday, July 17**

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.**

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

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

**\*\* If you cannot survey your lake** during the designated time or the make-up dates (a) Saturday anytime, (b) Fri. or Sun, **contact Eric Hanson ASAP (802) 586-8065**

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

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

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

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

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

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

	Time	# Adults	# Chicks	# Subadults	Location/Direction
<b>Example:</b>	<b>8:17</b>	<b>1</b>	_____	_(immatures)_	<b>Swimming north on eastern shore</b>
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: Please use VT ebird to enter your survey results online if you can.

- If more than 2 groups of loons observed and/or for lakes greater than 300 acres, give a verbal description of the location of each group in the “details box” of VT eBird. Example. Peacham Pond: north cove 2 adults 1 chick, Center of lake 4 adults, SW region 2 adults. If loons all over the place on a large lake, consider sketching a map on the backside and write down loon locations to make sure we don’t double count. Then mail in the map with your volunteer hours form.
- VT ebird instructions available at the VCE website:  
<http://vtecostudies.org/projects/lakes-ponds/common-loon-conservation/loonwatch/participate/>
- Remember, ENTER ZERO COUNTS ON EBIRD. Otherwise we won’t know whether the lake was surveyed, and it’s important to know where loons are not.
- Send in your signed “loon volunteer hours form”: scan and email OR mail.
- You can also fill out this form and mail with volunteer hour form or email Eric Hanson ehanson@vtecostudies.org