**2024 Vermont Loonwatch Data Form** **Vermont Loon Conservation Project (VLCP)**

Vermont Center for Ecostudies / Vermont Fish and Wildlife

**Saturday, July 20th** **Lakes less than 300 acres: 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** Eric Hanson and Eloise Girard

**Lakes greater than 300 acres: 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.** PO Box 22 Craftsbury, VT 05826 **(802) 586-8065**

www.vtecostudies.org

(If survey on different date or time:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) loon**@vtecostudies.org**

**Pond/Lake Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  \*\* **If you cannot survey your lake** during

the designated time or the make-up dates

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (a) Saturday anytime, (b) Fri. or Sun,

Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **contact Eric Hanson ASAP** (802) 586-8065

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (home):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of observers:\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

Time # Adults # Chicks # Subadults Location/Direction

**Example: 8:17 1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** \_\_(immatures)\_\_ **Swimming north on eastern shore**

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 intermittant 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 and time observed 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 an email if zero counts as ebird does not always work for zero counts.**
* 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 Eloise Girard and Eric Hanson at loon@vtecostudies.org