

LOON MORTALITY DATA SHEET

Minnesota citizens are asked to retrieve and submit dead loons for necropsy studies to learn why they died. This information will be useful in developing projects to protect Minnesota’s loons and reduce loon mortality. Thank you for your help in this citizen-science “CSI” effort!

NLC USE ONLY: Federal migratory bird salvage permit #

NLC USE ONLY: Minnesota DNR salvage permit #

Please fill out the information below regarding the loon that you found.

Finder’s name _____

Finder’s phone number (land line or cell) _____

Finder’s mailing address _____

Finder’s e-mail address _____

Date found _____

County where found _____

Township where found _____

Lake where found (describe approximate location on lake, or include lat/long or GPS coordinates if possible) _____

Condition when found (freshly dead, eaten by predators, etc. Please don’t submit decomposed, or badly decomposed loons)

Was loon observed sick or injured prior to dying due to injuries, fishing tackle on head and bill, tangled with fishing line, listless, floating in water, or washed up on shoreline?

If possible, please take photos of the dead loon in the water or as washed up on shore, including any apparent fishing tackle or fishing line, and submit it to: jon@nationallooncenter.org.

If possible, please include below a hand-drawn map of about where you found the loon showing landmarks, boat landings, or other useful reference points

NOW, WHAT DO I DO WITH A DEAD LOON:

1. Once you have retrieved and photographed the loon, please tie or wire a tag onto the loon's leg with the date found, finder's name & info, and lake name and county. Double bag the loon in two garbage bags. After filling out this form, place the form in a ziplock-type bag and tape it with duct tape to the outside of the garbage bags for easy reference.
2. Keep the loon cooled or refrigerated if the loon can be transferred to the University of Minnesota within two days. Otherwise, please freeze the loon to prevent further decomposition.
3. If the loon is already badly decomposed, very smelly, or even mummified, please arrange for it to be x-rayed in the garbage bags by a local veterinary's office to determine possible cause of death like broken bones, presence of lead jigs, sinkers, or other fishing tackle. Please let the NLC know if there is a charge for this service. At this point, the decomposed loon can be disposed of and the x-rays can be forwarded to the NLC.
4. Please note if there were any other dead or dying animals in the area.
5. Contact the National Loon Center to arrange for transfer or travel to the NLC. Contact Jon Mobeck, Executive Director, National Loon Center, PO Box 642, Crosslake, MN 56442. Office: 218-692-LOON (5666).

Thank you for caring about Minnesota's loons.

Jon Mobeck, Executive Director
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