## **APPENDIX J:** Loon Ranger Training and Responsibilities

## MONTANA LOON RANGERS INTERNET RESOURCES

## Videos:

Loon capture and processing: <u>http://www.vimeo.com/2945173</u> Installing a loon cam: <u>http://www.vimeo.com/1121034</u> "Ranger minute," loon nesting, feeding chick: <u>http://www.vimeo.com/2442391</u> Loon swimming and diving: <u>http://www.vimeo.com/890664</u> Too close! (tremolo, oaring, penguin dance): <u>http://www.vimeo.com/298327</u> Nesting, egg-laying on platform: <u>http://www.kare11.com/video/player.aspx?aid=30875&bw</u>

# Loon Nest Cam:

Biodiversity Research Institute: <u>http://www.briloon.org/watching-wildlife/loon-cam.php</u>

# Sounds:

Loon dictionary (Journey North): <u>http://www.learner.org/jnorth/tm/loon/Dictionary.html</u> Looney Tunes (Journey North): <u>http://www.learner.org/jnorth/tm/loon/identification.html#Looney</u>

Loon Yodel Studies (Journey North): <u>http://www.learner.org/jnorth/tm/loon/YodelStudies\_JM.html</u> Loon Sounds [all loon species] (Jungle Walk): http://www.junglewalk.com/sound/Loon-

# **Other Resources:**

sounds.htm

Beached Bird Guide for Northern Lake Michigan:

http://www.gtbay.org/downloads/beachedbirdguide1\_1.pdf

Montana Field Guide [all loon species] MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks: <u>http://fieldguide.mt.gov/displaySpecies.aspx?family=Gaviidae</u>

Loon Q&A (Journey North): <u>http://www.learner.org/jnorth/search/Loon.html</u> Satellite Tracking of Loons: <u>http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/index.shtml?project\_id=95</u> Montana NRIS Loon Database: <u>http://nris.state.mt.us/apps/loon/default.asp</u> Montana Loon Society: <u>http://www.montanaloons.org/</u>

#### TRAINING AGENDA

- Introductions
- Common Loon Ecology Presentation
  - PowerPoint for Indoor Talks
  - o Loon Board for Outdoor Talks
  - Loon Costume Demonstration
  - Loon Behaviors
- Management Efforts
  - Floating Signs
    - Importance
    - Placement
    - Removal
  - o Floating Platforms
    - Importance
    - Placement
    - Removal
- Public Education
  - Professional appearance and conduct (representing many agencies)
    - Eye contact
    - Introduce yourself (I'm \_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_)
    - Break the ice
      - "How is the fishing?"
      - "Great day to be on the lake."
      - "Gotta love the sunshine."
      - Do not try to talk to them while they are loading or unloading a boat unless you are offering to help
    - Quickly state your purpose and point out signs
    - Give out information and lead free sinkers
  - Especially critical on Memorial Day and 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekends
  - Mostly one on one at ramps/campgrounds
  - Occasional evening programs
  - o Loon Tour of the Thompson Chain of Lakes, Seeley Lake Loon Festival, and others
  - Methods
    - Loon PowerPoint
    - Loon Board for Outdoor Talks
    - Loon Costume Demonstration
    - Loon Trunk for teachers and rangers
- Monitoring System
  - Data sheets and how to record data
  - Area Coordinators
  - o Data Base
    - Results from previous years
    - Montana Natural Heritage Program
    - Survey forms must be returned promptly
  - o May 16 presence of territorial pairs and possible nesting

- o July 18- Loon Day survey counting all adults and chicks on all loon lakes
- > A Day in the life of a Loon Ranger
  - Check on the birds/nests/chicks and signs
  - Recording Bands (Time permitting)
  - o Examples of Daily/Weekly Schedules
  - Important Dates
  - Independent Working schedule
  - Mileage and Hour forms
- Personal Safety
  - Your safety comes first
  - Boat Safety
  - Life vests
  - Driving skills
  - Things to watch for when dealing with the recreating public
  - Most people are great to talk to but...
  - Watch for bumper stickers, hats, etc that indicate a dislike of biologists, environmentalists, governmental regulations, hatred of other wildlife species (ie: wolves, grizzlies), any indication of listening to "hate radio".
  - If you feel uncomfortable get out
- Area Contacts
  - o Area Biologist/MLS contact person/Area Coordinator/Supervisor
  - o Lynn Kelly 883-5797
  - Game Wardens and Enforcement Officers
    - Call if you observe violations of closed area or no-wake regulations, harassment of the birds, unsafe boating behavior.
    - Get boat numbers if possible
    - Get behavior on video if possible
- Personnel paperwork
- Field Equipment
  - Spotting Scope
  - o Binoculars
  - Ranger Notebook with data sheets
  - Cold/wet weather gear
  - o Hip boots/waders
  - Work gloves
  - Pocket knife/Multi-tool
- ➢ Field Work Training
  - Observations of loon behaviors on a local lake
  - Observations of banded loons
  - Placing floating signs
  - Interact with the public