

# MAINE AUDUBON

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June 30, 2007

Dear Loon Counter:

If you are new to this program, welcome! You join the ranks of almost 1,000 volunteers who regularly dedicate the morning of the third Saturday in July finding and counting loons. For all of you who have been with us for past counts, welcome back! **This year's count will run from 7:00 to 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 21.** Keep your fingers crossed for calm water and no wind or rain! Here's a summary of the task at hand for count morning:

- 1. Count your area** (either a whole lake or a portion of a lake) **from shore** (if you can see the entire count area) **or use a canoe or motorboat to travel around your count area during the count period (7 to 7:30 a.m., may be extended to 8 a.m. on large lakes ONLY).**
- 2. Mark your observation point or route of travel on the enclosed map with an "x" or dashed line.** Lake maps have been redrawn from the state's depth maps, and may not be completely accurate. Don't worry about minor geographical features, as long as the rough shape of the lake is correct.
- 3. Mark the location of all adults and chicks you see and the time each bird was observed.** This is especially important when there are multiple counters on a lake.
- 4. If you already know the location of any active nest sites, please mark them on the map.** However, do not search for nests, as that can be quite disruptive to nesting pairs. If you suspect a breeding pair is nesting in a given location, please make a note on the map.

**Please fill out your count form immediately after the count, and return it and the map to me by August 1.** Once I receive all the data sheets I will forward them to Maine Audubon. The count data and statewide loon population estimate will appear in the fall issue of Maine Audubon's quarterly newsletter *Habitat* and will also be available on-line at the Maine Loon Project home page (look for links from [www.maineaudubon.org](http://www.maineaudubon.org)).

Thank you again for participating in this very special loon count. The success of the count depends on your generous donation of time and energy.

Sincerely,

Regional Coordinator  
Address:

Telephone: