



**BIRD STUDIES
ÉTUDES D'OISEAUX CANADA**

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Dear Friend of the Loon:

Thank you for letting us know of the unhatched egg(s) you have found. The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) is conducting a study to measure the amounts of mercury and other environmental contaminants in loon eggs. These pollutants concern biologists because of evidence that loon reproduction may be affected by their presence in fish and other prey species. Since the resources needed to form a loon egg come largely from the nesting lake, the amounts of certain contaminants in loon eggs might be a good indication of the amount present in the area from which the egg came.

The CWS office at Carleton University, would like to receive loon eggs from anywhere in Canada as long as the eggs are entire, and are not cracked. You can assume that this has happened either by late August if the nest holds two eggs, or if you have seen one chick with its parents for at least a few days. (Parents will only wait around for a day or two after the first chick is hatched before abandoning the second egg). Please do not chase a loon off the nest to collect the eggs, even if the adult has been incubating for much longer than 30 days. This may cause them to abandon that site now and for future years.

Place the egg(s) and the enclosed collection form in a small padded box to ensure the egg(s) are not broken during delivery. Send the package collect by Purolater Courier to the following address:

Dr. Tony Scheuhammer
1125 Colonel By Drive
(Raven Road)
Carleton University
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6

You may charge the Canadian Wildlife Service for the cost of delivery but you will need to contact Dr. Scheuhammer's office and receive an account number prior to shipping. If Purolater Courier service is not available, the egg(s) can be sent by mail or by another courier, but the cost of sending the package can not be paid by CWS. Dr. Scheuhammer and I thank you for your interest and concern for our environment and for loons!

Please note, egg analysis occurs only when enough samples are stored to make the tests cost effective. After analysis, one complete copy of the most recent results are provided to each contributor.

Yours sincerely,

Kathy Jones
Aquatic Surveys Officer
aqsurvey@bsc-eoc.org



Habitat Conservation Fund

EGGS FROM COMMON LOONS (*Gavia immer*)

The Canadian Wildlife Service in Hull would like to receive eggs from Common Loons from anywhere in Canada as long as the eggs are entire and are not cracked. These will be used to assess mercury levels and also will be made part of the CWS wildlife tissue archive. Persons who find loon eggs should be urged to send them directly to the CWS office in Hull. These eggs can be sent via Purolator Courier service and CWS will pay for the shipping. Eggs should be packed with plenty of padding to ensure that they do not break. If Purolator is not available, the egg(s) can be sent by mail, but cost of mailing the package cannot be paid by CWS.

Shipment: - Purolator Courier

- ship "collect" - to be paid by CWS when package is received.
- The "Collect" shipping account number must be obtained from Dr. Scheuhammer's officer prior to shipping.

Address:

Dr. Tony Scheuhammer
1125 Colonel By Drive
(Raven Road)
Carleton University
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6

(Telephone 613-998-6695)

Information to Include:

- Finder's name, address, telephone.
- Date egg was found.
- Condition the egg was in (e.g. on nest, outside of nest, in the water).
- Precise location where egg was found. (Latitude/Longitude if possible; if not a map showing location on the lake and the general location of the Lake). You can look up your lake's Latitude/Longitude at http://geonames.nrcan.gc.ca/index_e.php or by using Bird Studies Canada's BirdMap Canada web site at http://www.bsc-eoc.org/birdmap_e.htm.

Storing and Packing Hints:

For storage, keep the egg cool but don't freeze it. These eggs sometimes burst so keep it in a sealed container or a baggy. Use lots of padding, cotton batting is an excellent choice. Pack the egg tightly so it can't jiggle. One excellent method is to pack the egg in a small padded box (one it just fits in) then place this small box in a larger one with additional cushioning. Another option is to purchase a foam block (oasis) slightly bigger than the egg (available at most craft or flower shops) and carve out a hollow to place the egg in. Be careful, you don't want the hollow so small you damage the egg when you pack it, if it's a little too big you can add some cotton. Then place the foam block in a slightly larger padded box for shipping.



Canadian Lakes Loon Survey - Loon Egg Collection Form

1. Personal Information

Collector's Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

2. Lake Information

Lake name (and bay or section, if known): _____

Lake province/territory: _____ Country/District/Region: _____

Township/Range: _____

Area of Lake, if known: _____ Latitude/Longitude, if known: _____ " 'N _____ " 'W _____

Directions and distances to the nearest town(s): _____

3. Nest/egg Information

Collection date (Day/Month/Year): _____

The egg was found (please check one):
_____ in the nest
_____ floating in water near the nest
_____ on the lake bottom near nest
_____ other (please specify): _____

4. Comments (length of incubation of egg(s), suspected reasons for abandonment of nest, etc.)
