

ADF&G'S LOON WATCH PROGRAM

Abstract
No. 22

Nancy Tankersley (AK Dept. Fish & Game, Nongame Wildlife Program, 333 Raspberry Rd., Anchorage, AK 99518).

Generally, the distribution of Common Loons (*Gavia immer*) in North America has shrunk to more remote areas as human populations have increased in loon nesting areas. A growing human population in Anchorage and the nearby Matanuska-Susitna Valley during the 1970's and 1980's substantially increased disturbance and development on loon nesting lakes, leading to concern about the future of breeding loons (both Common and Pacific, *G. pacifica*) in these areas. Fortunately, studies in other states have shown that breeding loons and people can coexist if certain measures are taken. Up to 160 volunteers have participated in ADF&G's Loon Watch program each year since 1985, contributing valuable information on 200 lakes. This information has helped identify appropriate research and management efforts to sustain loon populations in these areas.

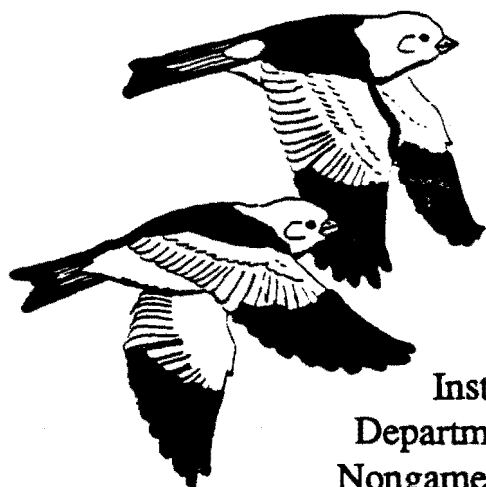
Keywords: ADF&G, Anchorage, Common Loon, disturbance, lakes, loons, Matanuska-Susitna Valley, volunteers.

Kenai
Bill Larned, USFWS, Pilot-biologist
wants loon signs

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