

# THE COMMON LOON

Helping to Protect  
This Migratory Bird



The common loon  
(*Gavia immer*)

is a fragile species.

It has already  
disappeared from several  
regions of southern  
North America — areas  
where it often  
used to nest.

The primary cause of  
this species' decline  
is increased human  
activity on lakes.

**The common loon frequents some islands and shores of La Pêche, Philippe and Meech lakes.**

Loons use these spots to incubate eggs and raise young. It is important that these places provide a quiet and sheltered location for the loon and its young.

**Repeated disruptions can endanger the survival of the young.**

The presence of visitors to Gatineau Park who take part in activities such as canoeing or fishing near a nest or a near a couple with young is very stressful for loons. As a result, the adult birds may emit a distress signal, consisting of a sharp tremolo call and wingbeating of the water's surface.

**Please help us to protect this species by following these guidelines.**

- Maintain a respectful distance from loons.
- Keep your distance from islands, especially during the nesting season (May, June and July).
- Keep your distance from shores identified with floating signs.
- Avoid using motorboats near islands and shores, as the waves could flood loons' nests.
- Do not use lead sinkers, and retrieve your lines and hooks, as these types of fishing tackle can injure or poison aquatic birds.

***Thank you for helping us protect this species for present and future generations!***

For more information, please contact the Gatineau Park Visitor Centre at **819-827-2020**.



GATINEAU PARK • PARC DE LA GATINEAU