

# The Uncommon Common Loon of Boundary County (2007-Current)

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Photo by: Steve Jamsa



Adult Loons with  
chicks



Sub-adult Loon



# Other birds commonly mistaken for Common Loons



**Red-necked Grebe**



**Common Merganser**



**Western Grebe**



**Double-crested Cormorant**

# Common Loon Facts

- Long-lived species <25 years

- Morphology

- Body size – 28-36”

- Solid bones

- Wingspan – 40-51”

- 30’ – 1,320’ for take off

- Legs located far back on the body

- Efficient swimmers

- Only on shore to mate & incubate



# More Looney Facts

- Migration
  - April and October
    - Young of the year migrate later in fall
  - Immature birds do not return for approx. 3 yrs.
  - Generally return within 20 miles of natal lake



# More Looney Facts

- **Reproduction**

- Age of Reproduction – Approx. 7 yrs old
- Generally 2 eggs, re-nest only 1 egg
- Incubation – 26-29 days
- Hatching late May-early June, early July for re-nests.



- **Habitat**

- Lakes > 13 acres
- Abundant prey (fish, amphibs, invertebrates)



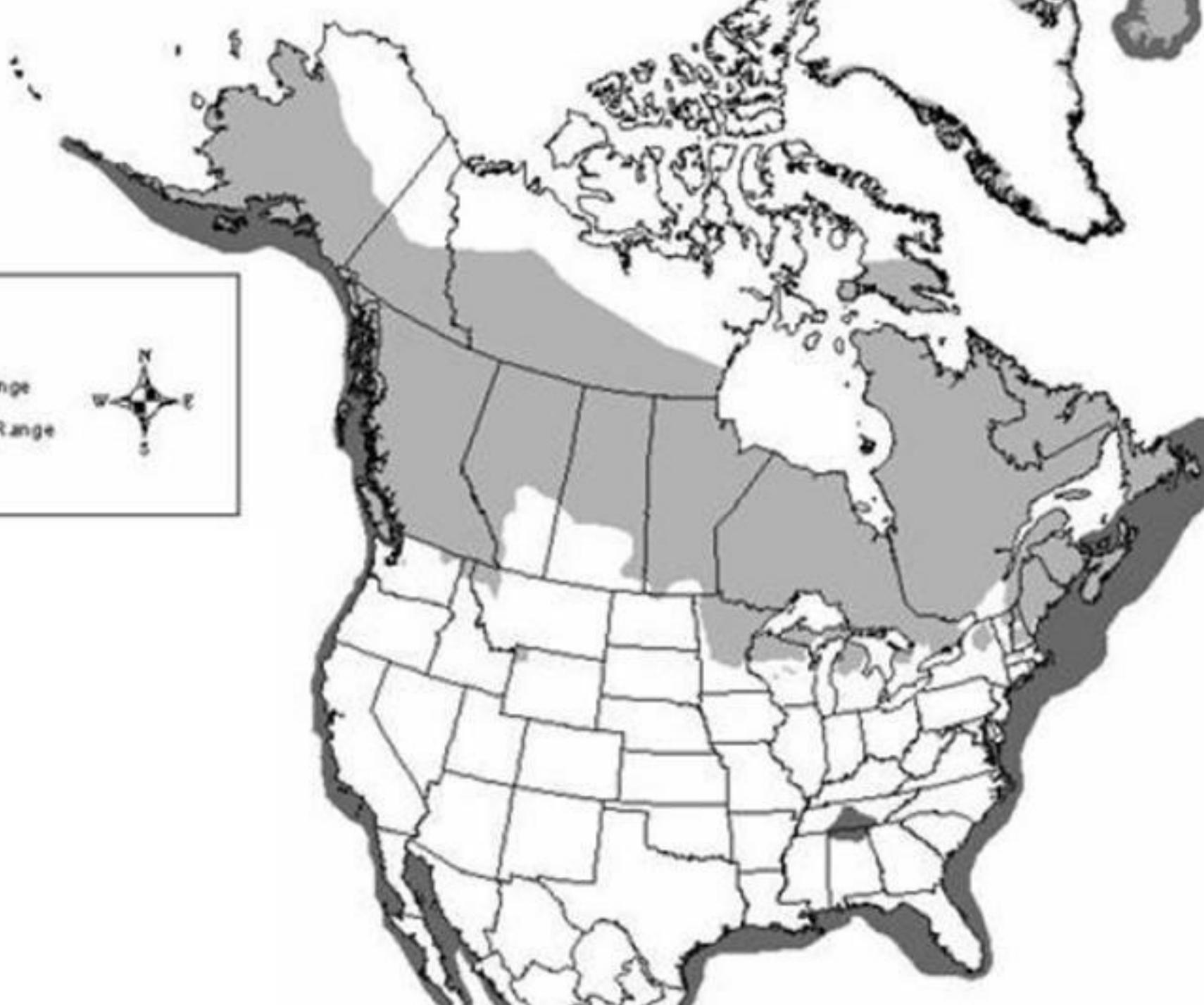
- **Nesting Habitat**

- Small islands, herbaceous shorelines
- Shallow coves for nursery areas



Legend

- Winter Range
- Breeding Range



# Local Loon Populations

- NW Montana (1999-2008)
  - 62 breeding pairs (stable population)
  - 41 chicks/year
  - 53 singles (variable)
  - Banding program
    - 174 active bands 2013
- Eastern Washington
  - 10 lakes with established Territories
- North Idaho
  - Sporadic observations
  - Last documented chicks – 1985 (MacArthur Lake)

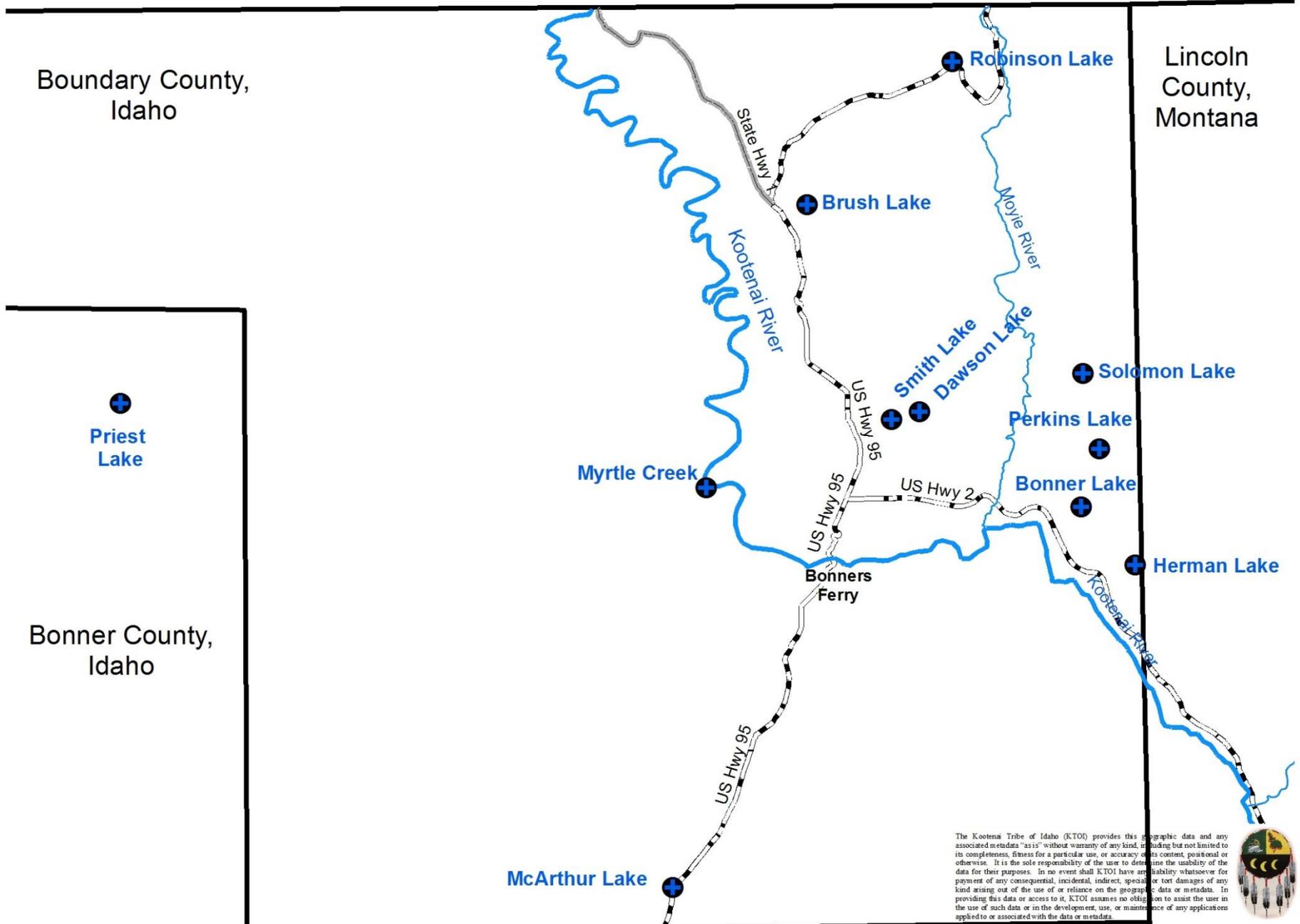


# Montana Banding Program

- Main effort started in 2003, continuing at a reduced rate.
- Currently, 233 birds have been banded
- 38 loon deaths have been documented (MT, ID, WA, OR, CA, NV)



# Lakes Surveyed for Common Loons in Boundary County, Idaho



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# North Idaho Loon Summary Update

Lake	Acres	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bonner Lake	21				6 7	7-S 7-P	5 7	6-L? 7-P 8-B	5-P 5-N 6-C? 7-L
Brush Lake	39				6 7	7	5 7	5 7	5 7
Dawson Lake	30				6 7	7	5 7	7	5 7
Herman Lake	31					7-P 8-S	5-N	5 7	5 7
Kootenai River		S		S					
McArthur Lake	267				6 7	7	5 7	5 7	5 7
Myrtle Creek	20							7-S	5-S
Perkins Lake	53				6 7	7	5	5 7	5 7
Robinson Lake	54				6 7	7	5 7	5 7	5, 6-S 7
Smith Lake	27				6 7	7	5	7	5 6-P? 7
Solomon Lake	11					7	7		

5=May survey/observation
6=June observation
7=July survey/observation
8=August observation
B=Banded loon
C=Chick
L=Dead loon
N=Nest
P=Pair
S=Single
F=Nest failure



Photo by: Steve Jamsa

Herman Lake, Boundary County, Idaho



Bonner Lake, Boundary County, Idaho



# Fishing Line and Common Loons



Daniel Poleschook, Jr. and Virginia R. Gurnh

Don't Mix



# How to Find Loon Bands - PATIENCE





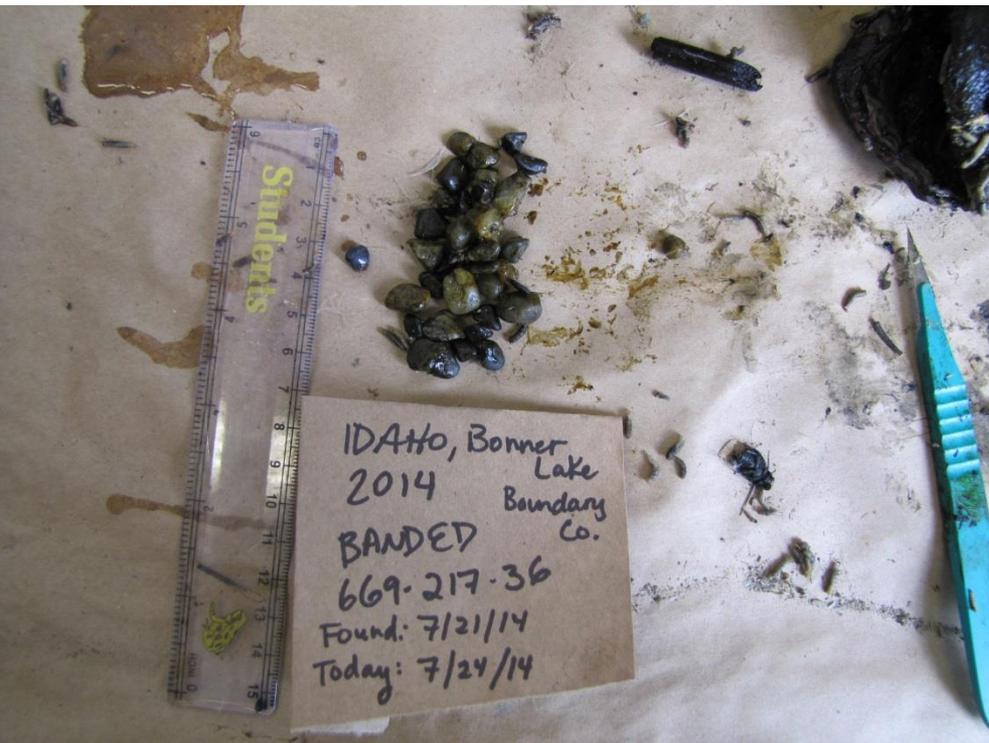
Photo by: Steve Jamsa







# Common Loons And Lead Sinkers



Don't Mix

# Common Loon Conservation

A Common Loon is shown in flight over a body of water. The bird has a black head and neck with a white patch on its throat, and a dark, patterned body. Its wings are spread, showing dark feathers. The background is a blurred, natural setting with water and land.

- Common Loons
  - Give them space
  - Be aware that they may attempt to prey on your lures
  - Wrap up loose fishing line
  - Use non-lead fishing tackle
- Nesting loons and chicks
  - Give them space
  - Do not approach the nests
  - Reduce wakes (not a problem)

*"That's all Folks!"*

