

## **MICHIGAN LOON PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION**

### **BASIC GUIDELINES FOR HELPING LOONS ACHIEVE SUCCESSFUL NESTING ON OUR LAKE:**

- A) When a pair of loons has come to share a lake for the summer, and will soon nest, the MLPA advises:**
1. Observe the loons from a distance and avoid the nesting area. Disturbance can cause the loons to stay away from the nest or even abandon it.
  2. If a loon acts disturbed when you are near it-**calling and/or splashing**- it is trying to tell you to move out of its territory. Please do so!
  3. Never leave fishing lines unattended and please stop fishing if the loons are feeding in the area (continued diving). Consider using a non-lead weight. Never throw tangled line into the lake. Let's avoid loons and other wildlife getting tangled in our fishing line.
  4. If you are too close to the loon nest, the loon will flatten out, with head down; it perceives you as a threat. Please move much farther away, and use binoculars to observe them. Respect parents on the nest.
- B) When a pair of loons has successfully hatched their chicks, they will raise them to fledging (8-12 weeks). We can help them to be successful:**
1. Watch loons only from a distance of **at least 150 feet**.
  2. Do not disturb or chase the family. This can exhaust the chicks, or the adults may abandon the chicks and they may die.
  3. Do not fish in areas where the loons are feeding, to avoid tangling them in your fishing line.
- C) Keeping these few important things in mind, we can enjoy watching the young loons grow and protect them until they are ready to leave the lake in autumn.**

The survival of the young birds helps to ensure that there will be loons for future generations to watch and listen to.

We can make a difference in the loons' nesting success. Loons are having increasing difficulties as our lakes become over developed and fishing, boats, and jet ski use grow yearly. Without consideration and help from people, the stirring call of the Common Loon may only someday be heard in memory. We must make certain that this beautiful bird and its song will always be a part of Michigan, Ryerson Lake, and our priceless heritage.

If you are interested in becoming a Loon Ranger for Ryerson lake, please contact the DNR as it is an official DNR position. We do not currently have a Loon Ranger.

OUR CURRENT MATED LOON PAIR ON THEIR NEST (photo by Jennifer Selwa)

