



PARC DE LA GATINEAU  
GATINEAU PARK

# THE COMMON LOON

A Migratory Bird  
Worth Saving!



The common loon (*Gavia immer*) has disappeared from several regions of southern North America, where it was commonly found nesting in the past. The primary cause of this species' decline can be attributed to the increasing presence of human activity on lakes.

**Did you know that the common loon regularly nests on several islands and shores of La Pêche, Philippe and Meech lakes?**

In fact, these spots offer a quiet and sheltered location to incubate eggs and raise young, and the birds often use the same nests for several years.

**Please keep your distance!**

The presence of Park visitors taking part in activities such as canoeing, camping or fishing near the occupied islands and shores is very stressful for loons.

As a result, the adult birds may emit a distress signal, consisting of a sharp "tremolo" call and wing-beating of the water's surface.

Repeated disruptions of this nature can endanger the survival of the young.

**Help us protect this species!**

The Common loon is a protected species according to the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*. In order to minimize disruptions during this species' nesting phase, the National Capital Commission has temporarily prohibited access to certain islands and shores of La Pêche, Philippe and Meech lakes from May 15 to July 15.

**You can help by following these guidelines:**

- Keep your distance from loons, shores and islands identified with floating signs.
- Reduce your boat speed as you approach these islands: the wake could flood nests.
- Dispose of your fishing gear (lines, hooks) properly, as it can cause injury to 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.



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