Looking For Loons

A Counting Adventure!

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Illustrated by: (your name)

Filled with ‘looney’ facts!
In our home and on our lake, beauty is everywhere. I dedicate this book to my husband, whom with everything I share.
On a warm spring day, I kayaked away

To see loons in the sun, but I found only one.
Male loons migrate when the ice begins to melt on the Adirondack waters.
The male loon comes back first every year...

In a few weeks his mate should be here!
Loons nest on islands or shores, but **never** in a tree.

The female lays one to **two** eggs, hardly ever three.

Loons legs are way back and out to the sides, which makes them excellent swimmers, but clumsy walkers.
I used my binoculars to take a look around.

Where did he go? He must have dived down!

Did you know...? Loons can stay under water for about 2 minutes!
Just then I spotted three otters playing around!

Otters and other animals will eat a loon egg if the egg is left unprotected in the nest.
Loons use their nests only for about a month. It is most important during this time not to disturb them.

Loons build messy nests.

Twigs and mud and weeds work best.
Loon families stay pretty small.

Usually no more than four in all.
Sitting on the eggs, keeps them safe and warm.

Around July 4th, the chicks are born!
On the lake last year there were five loon pairs.

By the end of the summer there were loons everywhere!

Loon chicks have only 2-3 months to learn how to fly and feed themselves before they are left by their parents.

B. Rothauser, 2002
Looking up, I saw an amazing sight!

High in the sky there was a loon in flight!

Loons fly about 60-70 miles per hour! That's faster than some highway traffic.
And then something else caught my eye…

…six puffy clouds floated right by!
I stopped to eat lunch in Beaver Bay.

When the loons are nesting there, I stay away.

When nesting loons are disturbed they will leave the nest. If they leave their eggs too much, they may not hatch.
Seven mergansers swam by around noon.

Sometimes people think that they are loons.
I counted the red-winged black birds
- I could see eight...
Loons can live up to 30 years! Occasionally they will switch mates when one is kicked off of the territory by another loon.

...and one lovely loon, waiting for his **mate**.
The water was sparkling in the sunshine.

Nine little ducks swam by in a line.
Ten geese flew by, and I thought of the loon, who will have a mate and chicks so soon.
Then on a cold November day...

Loons cannot take off without at least ¼ mile “runway” of water. That’s the length of four football fields!

the lovely loons will fly away.
It’s not the same without them here.

I sure am glad they return every year.

Adult loons return to the same lake year after year.
...The End...

For More Information on Loons:
Visit www.adkloon.org