

Loon Facts and Rescue Info

- Loons are diving birds that spend most of their lives on the water
- Their legs are set far back on their body, preventing them from standing, walking or being able to take off from land.
- Loons do not breed in Western New York, but they may stop here during fall or spring migration.
- Common loons are about 3 feet long and can weigh up to 12 pounds. Red-throated loons are 2 feet long and only weigh 3-4 pounds



common loon
breeding plumage



juvenile common loon



red-throated loon
winter plumage

If you find a loon on the ground, she needs help!

- Be very careful! They can stab with their beaks and cause significant injuries, especially to your eyes.
- It is best to contact a rehabilitator to assist with the rescue.
- In an emergency, use gloves and toss a towel or other cloth item over the loon to control the head and wings, then place in a box.
- Contact WildCare of Western New York at wildcarewny@gmail.com