

Submitting Loonwatch and other Loon observations to Vermont eBird

You will need to register as an eBird user to start. Don't have an internet connection? Visit your local library. Most have free, high speed, internet connections for you to use. Follow the directions below for data entry. The first time will take a little longer as you navigate through the process.

Use these procedures for both 1) Loonwatch Day (3rd Saturday of July) and 2) Casual loon surveys conducted at anytime.

1. Go to Vermont eBird - <http://ebird.org/content/vt> from any computer connected to the internet. If you do not have an eBird account, click on Register as a new user. Otherwise, log in with your user name and password.

2. Click on the tab – Submit Observations

3. Click on – Find it on a map

4. Find the lake you surveyed on the map. You can do this in number of ways. We suggest:

a. type in the town in which the lake is located, for example, “Barnard, VT” to the right of the **Google** icon at the top of the map. Then hit Enter on your keyboard. This zooms to the town. Do not type in the **Location Name** box above the map; the lake name will appear here after you locate the lake on the map.

b. Use the zoom in tool or pan by clicking, holding and dragging the map around. You will see a red icon on any lakes that are “hot spots”. Most of the Loonwatch survey lakes should already be hotspots.

5. Map with the surveyed lake on it.

a. Click on the red icon for the lake you surveyed. This will place the name of the lake in the **Location Name** box above the map. PLEASE NOTE THE ACREAGE OF THE LAKE IN PARANTHESES. YOU WILL NEED THIS NUMBER LATER.

b. Click the **continue** button on the right side above the map.

6. Date and Effort page

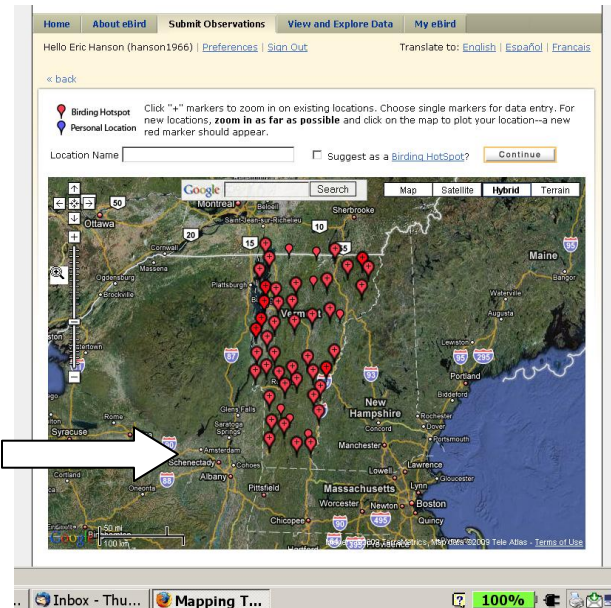
Click **LoonWatch** for Observation Type, fill out **Date**, **Time Started**, **Duration of Survey**, and the **Acres** that you noted from the lake name box above. If you did not survey the entire lake, please adjust the acreage. Click the **continue** button.

7. What did you see and hear page

a. If you are only reporting loons (or only a few species e.g., eagles & osprey), click **no** to the first question. You are not submitting a complete checklist of all birds observed or heard.

b. Click **yes** to reporting age/sex/comments.

c. Type “Common Loon” in the **Jump to Species** box or scroll down to the loon section. Enter the total number of Common Loons (e.g., 2 adults + 1 chick = 3 total) Enter other species if you surveyed them.



d. Go back to the top and click **Continue** button.

8. Age and sex of the species you identified page

a. If you know the ages of the loons you surveyed, enter them in the boxes under **Unknown Sex**. You could observe adults, immature, also called subadults (hatched last year and not in breeding plumage), or juvenile (chicks hatched this year). Do not try to differentiate between male and female adult loons.

b. Click **Continue** button.

9. Confirmation and Notes page

You can now add any notes you have. You can also click “email me a copy” and you will get it in your email. This will allow you to share it with others if you’d like.

- Click **Submit** and you are all done!

This seems like a lot of steps, but this should only take you about 10 minutes or less to complete. And, it will allow everyone to see the Loonwatch results almost instantly! We will be uploading past Loonwatch years so soon everyone will be able to explore all of the data in Vermont eBird.

Please consider entering all of your bird sightings on Vermont eBird.