

Loon Speak:

Adult loons give four basic calls: the yodel, wail, tremolo, and hoot. Here's what they are saying:

- The YODEL is a territorial call given only by male loons to warn other males to stay away. The call begins with three notes that rise slowly, followed by several undulating phrases.
- The WAIL resembles a wolf howl. Loons use this call to locate other loons.
- When loons are disturbed or excited they often give the TREMOLO. It sounds like a quavering laugh. The flight call, a variation of the tremolo, is often given over lakes by males seeking other loons.
- Loons use a soft, one-note HOOT, to call to chicks, mates, or other loons. It is a friendly greeting, often used in close quarters.

For complete article and to hear these calls, visit LOONWATCH at <http://vhost2.wiscnet.net/sigurd-olson-environmental-institute-loon-watch-behavior.htm>



A Single Lead Split Shot is Enough to Kill a Twelve Pound Loon!

Lead poisoning from ingested tackle usually occurs when a lead jig head is swallowed by a fish and the fish is eaten by a bird or lost lead tackle is picked up with small stones and grit from the bottom of lakes to help birds digest food. The primary cause of death for loons, eagles, trumpeter swans, and many other wildlife species is lead ingestion.

Lead is one of the most toxic metals known. Adverse effects due to lead exposure have been documented in many wildlife species. Lead deposited in the environment does not break down over time into less toxic compounds. Lead can poison people, loons, eagles, swans, herons and other wildlife. One lead sinker can kill a 12-pound loon.

Switching to non-lead tackle is an inexpensive and easy way to protect waterfowl and raptors from lead poisoning. Alternatives to lead tackle are available in many bait and tackle shops. Anglers should request bait and tackle shops to carry lead-free sinkers and jigs.

LoonWatch (<http://northland.edu/loonwatch>) maintains a list of non-lead tackle suppliers and alternative lead-free fishing products.

For complete article, see <http://bayfieldcountylakes.org/?110970>