



The Common Loon in this picture is in its handsome summer plumage. The female looks like the male. Most of us, however, are not likely to see Loons in this plumage, unless we are near lakes in the northern parts of this country or in Canada. It gets its name from its cry which sounds like a crazy laugh.

These birds are excellent divers and can swim long distances under water. Fish is the Loons' main food. They also eat crabs, frogs, and insects. Loons nest near the shores of lakes or ponds. The nest is made of reeds and grasses. The female lays two eggs that are greenish or dull brown, with black spots.

By the fall, when the Loons begin to fly south, their plumage will have changed. to a gray above and white below. Flying south, the Loons follow the Atlantic coastline or the Mississippi Valley down to the Gulf coast of Mexico. There they spend the winter.