

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA) Kidz Zone Activities:

Listen to Minnesota's State Bird: *the Common Loon*



Be Sure to Use Binoculars to See the Loons from 200 Feet Away! They are Sensitive to Disturbance from Personal Watercraft, Boats and more!

The photographer, Debbie Center, HC COLA member Middle Crow Wing Lake Association, had a special camera that she used to zoom in & take this picture of the Loon with the two chicks riding on its back for you.

Use the “Ask the Scientist” at the [National Loon Center](#) to find answers to commonly asked questions about the Loons!

Some books about Loons include:

- Little Loon Finds His Voice by Yvonne Pearson
- Secrets of the Loon by Laura Purdie Salas and Chuck Dayton
- Lenny the Loon series
- PLUS “Once Upon a Loon” – text & photography by Scott Rykken

In addition to learning about and listening to the Loons, here are some more activities in the HC COLA Kidz Zone:

- 1) Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA) offers an aquatic vegetation identification “dock talk” so kids and parents can learn together with the help of a certified University of MN Extension Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Detector Volunteer with HC COLA. We can examine aquatic vegetation together, look for invertebrates (like snails and crayfish) in the water along the shoreline, and/or do an invasive species scavenger hunt together. To schedule this 1 hour “dock talk” type of activity, parents may email hccolamn@gmail.com – please provide contact information & Hubbard County lake location information.
- 2) The children can participate in some activities like [Plant Heroes](#).
- 3) The children can participate in some activities like [Invader Rangers](#).

4) Green and Living Scavenger Hunt

Outdoor Scavenger Hunt

Look for the items in each box as you go outdoors.
As you find the items in each box, circle the box.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
|  a worm, snail, or slug |  a nest or a burrow |  a nut, fruit, or seed |
|  a flower |  a tree |  a bird |
|  a fish or an animal |  an insect or a spider |  water or a cloud |

5) Use these Stream Keeper Hints to see if the Water is clean or polluted – color & learn with Parents at the shoreline; available [online](#)

6) MN DNR Kids [Indoor](#) Activities

Watch – Read – Print to Color

Note that these 2 resources listed below from the “MN DNR “Indoor” activities” are available at the Park Rapids Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce in the kiosk section just inside the front door. The address is: 1204 Park Ave S, Park Rapids, MN 56470

a. [MN DNR Water Safety Coloring & Activity Book](#)

b. MN DNR Comic Book [“H2O Toons”](#)

7) “Libraries Love Lakes” [Reading List](#)

- Suggested Book List with **Children’s Age Ranges from 3 to 12**
- Sorted by Relevant topic and with the ISBN number.