



maang (Common loon)

Maang (loon) is an Anishinaabe clan animal and Minnesota's state bird. Did you know that Minnesota has more Common loons than any other state except Alaska?

A maang is most known for its four loud calls. A wail is the call we most associate with them. Hoot (for family communication), yodel (males guarding territory), and tremolo (like laughing) are other calls.

Loons dive for fish and, unlike most other birds, have solid bones to help them dive and stay under water. How long do you think one can stay under? (five minutes) Their heavy bodies require a long "runway" for takeoff.

In the picture you seen two chicks on a parent's back. Riding there helps keep them safe from predators like large fish and turtles.

Maang can live to 30 years and often return to the same lake year after year. Listen for them in Grand Portage Bay and look for these black and white birds in inland lakes throughout the Arrowhead.



