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Winter recoveries and territorial affinity of Common Loons banded in Wisconsin.—Although the wintering range of Common Loons (*Gavia immer*) is well known (Bent 1919, Palmer 1962), little information is available relating individuals marked during the breeding season to their specific wintering areas. McIntyre (1988) suggested that Minnesota loons winter along the Gulf Coast of Florida and that loons wintering along the Atlantic Ocean breed in mid-Canada. Eberhardt (1984) reported one adult and three juvenile winter recoveries from Florida. Additionally, little information is available regarding territorial affinity. McIntyre (1974) recaptured a loon that was banded on the same lake the year before. Eberhardt (1984) recaptured six of 28 adults and one of 128 juveniles on the same lake where they were banded the year before. We present recovery information that supports territorial affinity and documents wintering areas of Common Loons from Wisconsin.

Loons were captured using night-lights (Bishop and Barrat 1969), modified commercial pound-nets, and a spring-driven bow net that incorporated a decoy and broadcasted tremolo and yodel calls. We marked 20 adults and 34 chicks with standard U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service leg or toe bands (McIntyre 1977), thirty-five of which also received patagial tags and/or colored leg bands (Strong et al. 1987a).

We recorded five (three adult and two young) winter recoveries. The three adults (probably non-breeders) had been marked during June 1987 on Lake Superior along the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Bayfield Co., Wisconsin. Two were found dead: one was recovered near St. Petersburg, Florida, during December 1987, and the other near Pensacola Beach, Florida during July, 1988. The third adult was entangled in a fishing net during spring 1988 on Lake Arrowhead, near Atlanta, Georgia and released unharmed.

The two young loons were banded from two different broods during June 1986 on the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage (TFF), Iron Co., Wisconsin. One loon was observed during March 1988 on Lake Walter F. George, near Eufaula, Alabama (J. W. McIntyre, pers. comm.), while the other was found dead during May 1988 on Santa Rosa Island, near Pensacola, Florida.

We also recorded four summer recoveries. Three loons were marked during July 1987 on the TFF and were members of nesting pairs. All three loons were observed periodically during summer 1988, and one was also observed during summer 1989. We found them in, or adjacent to, the same territories that they had occupied during 1987. We do not know whether these loons nested during 1988 or 1989. One adult loon, originally captured as a member of a breeding pair on Mirror Lake, Iron Co., Wisconsin was observed once on the same lake during May 1986. However, we found no evidence of nesting on Mirror Lake during 1986.

These observations, along with information summarized by McIntyre (1988), suggest that Common Loons from the western Great Lakes area winter along the Gulf Coast. However, the migration route remains unclear. Common Loons from this area may migrate along the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River to the Atlantic Ocean, then fly south along the coast to their wintering areas. McIntyre (1988) reported several recoveries that support this possibility. Another potential migration route is a north/south route to the Gulf of Mexico. Boyle et al. (1979) suggested that Common Loons migrated overland. Powers and Cherry (1983) noted that Common Loons used both inland and offshore routes. Common Loons have been reported in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas, however, no banded birds have been recovered along this route (McIntyre 1988).

Territorial affinity is more likely to occur in long-lived species. Common Loons are probably long-lived with low adult mortality rates (Nilsson 1977, McIntyre 1988). Strong

et al. (1987b) found high reuse of territories and nest sites. Territory reuse would be advantageous, requiring less time spent searching for suitable habitat in an environment with a short ice-free season (Yonge 1981).

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