

1992, TWS-OR Conference, Bend, OR. Poster.

THE COMMON LOON IN OREGON AND WASHINGTON. CHARLOTTE C. CORKRAN,
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The Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) was not known to nest in Oregon or Washington after 1950, but since 1980 several nesting pairs have been found in Washington. Monitoring of loon behavior in Oregon has found an apparent failed nesting attempt at a reservoir in Portland's Bull Run Watershed. Reservoirs have created new habitat for loons, but fluctuating water levels may strand or flood nests. Floating platforms have been accepted by loons in other areas and are being tried. During spring, loon behavior at the possible nest site was compared to behavior where loons migrate but where there is no nesting habitat. On the Oregon coast, previously unpublished behaviors were observed that corroborate the theory that male loons from adjacent nest territories migrate together. In observed confrontations, loons in the "vulture posture" maximized the aggressive exhibition of white breasts and wing linings, while giving the "yodel" calls that are characteristic of the defense of nesting territories. However, they carefully positioned themselves to avoid directly facing their opponents, perhaps thereby preventing physical battles and potential injuries. In other observations, individual loons took turns performing fantastic displays of strength and fighting prowess by shadow boxing, rushing across the water, splash diving, and breaching like miniature whales. Are these loons in confrontations and displays actually male loons travelling together to the same nesting lakes? Do they avoid conflicts over the boundaries of breeding territories by arriving together and already knowing each others' mettle?