

Miltmore boat launch parking area at the bottom of the hill. Park and walk out on the road to the east, which separates Miltmore Lake and Fourth Lake. **Fourth Lake** to the south often has thousands of coot during migration plus other puddle ducks, including Ruddy Ducks. Osprey in spring have been seen on this lake and occasionally in spring or fall, Rusty Blackbirds frequent the parking lot area.

### Sand Lake

Return to North Nathan Hale Road and continue to Morton Drive./Genoa Avenue; turn east and you'll skirt the north side of Miltmore Lake and Lake Miltmore Park, another good viewing area for Miltmore Lake. Turn north on Granada Boulevard. When you reach Verona Boulevard, you'll see the Sand Lake boat launch, which offers a view of Sand Lake from the southeast. This is a good lake for loons in the spring as well as Red-breasted Mergansers. To view the lake from the west, go north on Granada to Route 132. Turn west to Douglas Lane (You'll see a Lake Co. Forest Preserve sign for Farm Pond); turn south on Douglas Lane and view the lake from the Forest Preserve District property on the west side of the lake. RJ's Eatery on Rte 132 is a fine restaurant to dine at while doing this loop tour.

### Crooked Lake/ Deep Lake/Sun Lake

**Crooked Lake** to the north of Route 132 and east of Deep Lake Road can often hold some interesting loons, ducks, and mergansers. Take Deep Lake Road north to Crooked Lake Lane. Go north at the stop sign onto North Crooked Lake Lane. Park at Sedgewood Cove Park and walk to the lake on the nature trail. Scan the lake from the western shore. Return to Route 132; turn west to Water's Edge Drive. Go north to Glacier Park and the condo parking lot overlooking **Deep Lake**. You may view waterbirds from the condo overlook. Loons linger longer here than anywhere else on the Chain, with birds often being seen into mid-May. This lake also has Horned and Pied-billed Grebes, mergansers and Mute Swans.

A Pacific Loon was once recorded here and on **Sun Lake**, just to the north, during the summer of 199, a first regional (Middle-western Prairie Region) record for the summer! Sun Lake can be accessed off Grass Lake Road to the north by the Lake County Forest Preserve District sign. You will, however, have to walk a mile to reach the lake to the south.

### Cedar Lake

Return to the intersection of Routes 132 and 83. Go west on 132 to Cedar Avenue. Turn northeast and drive into Lehmann Park; park by beach. At this park you may view the southeastern side of the lake. A view of the western side of the lake can be obtained by returning to Route 132, then going west past Cedar Lake Road. Just as you pass the road, note the drive for the Bradley Counseling Center entrance on the west side of the lake. Turn north down this road and view the lake to the east. Often many puddle ducks remain on this lake in spring well into May. Loons, grebes, Ring-necked Duck, scaup, Bufflehead, mergansers, and Ruddy Duck often abound here in spring. A more northerly view of the lake may be had by returning to Route 83, then going north to Petite Lake Road. Turn west to Belmora Park Boulevard, then south to Liberty Avenue and finally west where you will see an empty lot from which you can view the lake to the south. Often huge rafts of ducks can be seen from this location in spring. Common Moorhens once nested off Belmora and Petite Lake Road.

### West and East Loon Lakes

Return to Route 83 from either Petite Lake Road or 132; go north to Grass Lake Road. Then turn east to Villa Rica Drive; then left to an open boat launch; from here you can view West Loon Lake. Continue on Villa Rica past Loon Lake Boulevard and Beach Drive to North Lake Boulevard. Turn north and you'll be able to view both East and West Loon Lakes from this peninsula. View from the beach side of West Loon Lake only, and respect the rights of private property owners. I once became pre-

occupied with trying to find Common Loons on both West and East Loon Lakes when I lived in Fox Lake. I figured that if someone named these lakes after loons, I should at least be able to see one there during migration. So, I began my search one spring, and lo and behold, I did find Common Loons to be rather regular on these lakes both during spring and fall. Thus they are appropriately named, though I've never recorded more than a "handful" of loons on either lake. These lakes are also good for other species of grebes and ducks. Horned Grebes are often close to shore on the east side of West Loon Lake, and Hooded Mergansers and Red-breasted Mergansers like both lakes. In summer, the state endangered Black and Forster's Terns forage on East Loon Lake. The Black Tern has attempted nesting at East Loon Lake at the north end. Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot, Bufflehead, Northern Shoveler, and Ring-necked Duck are often recorded at the north end of East Loon Lake.

### Deer Lake

Return to Grass Lake Road via West Loon Lake Boulevard. Go east to Deep Lake Road, then north to Route 173. Turn east and almost immediately on both sides of the road you'll see Red-Wing Slough marsh. Sometimes from this busy road, you can many ducks, an occasional Forster's Tern, Black Terns, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Least Bittern is also a possibility. Continue west 0.8 mile from the intersection of Deep Lake Road and 173 until you see a very narrow gravel road on the east side of a farm house (there's a Slow Children sign on a post here) 0.4 mile before Savage Road. This north road is easy to miss but is currently the only access point to reach Deer Lake; you'll see IDNR signs along the road, incidentally the last place that Common Loons ever nested in Illinois! Take the gravel road north nearly 0.5 mile as it parallels the east side of Red-Wing Slough. Park at the gate and walk north a mile to Deer Lake. The birding can be great here. American Bitterns and Sandhill Cranes have

### Meadowlark