

Pelican Pete's Backyard Adventures™

Nature Discoveries and Outdoor Fun

Loony Loons

DID YOU KNOW?



PELICAN PETE

Common Loons (*Gavia immer*) were named because of their loony gait on land. Their legs are set far back on their bodies making them excellent for swimming underwater, but not so good for walking.

They are always in the water except when nesting on the shores of inland lakes in the north. When the water turns to ice, they migrate to the coasts. In order to become airborne with heavy bodies made for diving, they first must flap their wings while running on the surface of the water.

GET OUTDOORS!

How have the animals in your yard and neighborhood adapted to survive in their habitats? Notice how the shape of teeth or bills are adapted to the foods they eat. How their skin, fur or feathers are suited for their environment. How their coloring may camouflage them. Note what you see.

Play Loony Loons! Form 2 teams and at the signal the first player on each team races to the finish line while doing a loony loon walk!

*They call me loon, and heaven knows,
I'm not exactly twinkle toes.
I'm built for swimming; so you see,
Water ballets are best for me.*

