



Loon Preservation Committee **NEWSLETTER**

P.O. Box 604, Lee's Mill Road, Moultonborough, NH 03254 603-476-LOON (5666)

SUMMER 2008

Annual Loon Census
Saturday, July 19th ♦ 8:00 am - 9:00 am
(please see page 15)

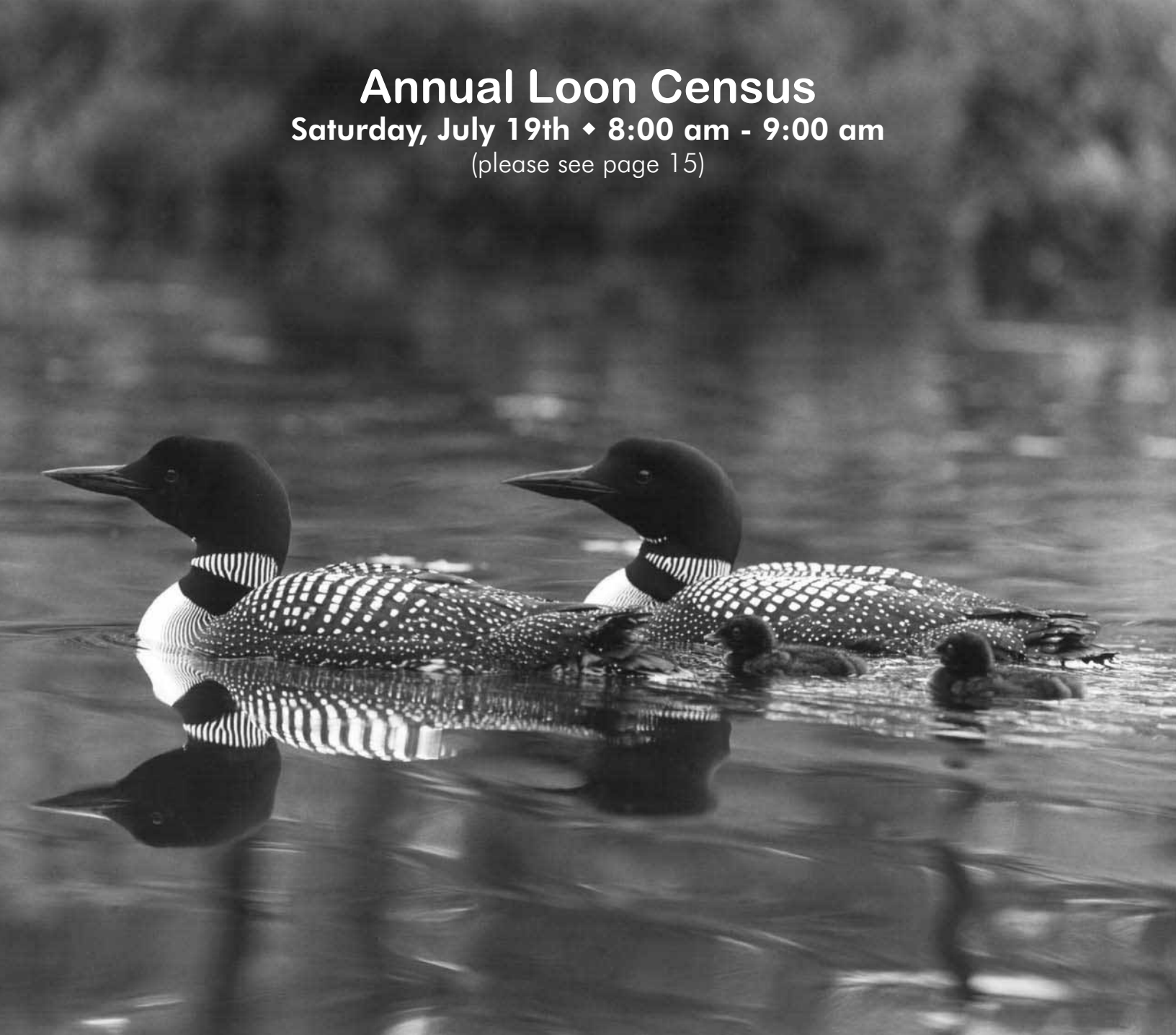


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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Loon Preservation Committee

183 Lee's Mill Road, P.O. Box 604
Moultonborough, NH 03254
603-476-LOON (5666); www.loon.org

The Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) is a non-profit, self-directed and self-funded constituent organization of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire (ASNH). Autonomous in membership and fundraising, LPC works to preserve loons and their habitats in New Hampshire through research, management and education.

LPC Staff:

Harry S. Vogel
Executive Director/Senior Biologist
Kimberley J. Beardwood
Shop/Membership Assistant
Christopher A. Conrod
Field Program Coordinator
John H. Cooley, Jr.
Staff Biologist
Alisoun A. Hodges
Development Coordinator
Linda Egli Johnson
Special Assistant/Newsletter Coordinator
Joan M. Page
Database Technician
Rachel B. Williams
Center/Shop Manager

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Loons, iPhones, and \$4 per Gallon Gas

I would venture to say that a majority of people (other than LPC members and volunteers) think of loons as a luxury to be considered after other necessities and luxuries are taken care of. In view of a wobbly economy, the new iPhone, and gas at over \$4 per gallon, I'll admit that I've felt some low-level anxiety about LPC's ability to raise the funds necessary to preserve loons in New Hampshire. I feel this way every time we have an economic slowdown, and it's true that things can get even a little tighter than usual at LPC during the hard times.

We've had to work a little harder to find the funds to support LPC's mission recently. We continue to be successful in securing grants from foundations, but at its heart LPC has always been a grassroots organization, and our most substantial and meaningful support has always come from you, our members and volunteers. Even in the midst of our belt-tightenings, I have been gratified to see that LPC has been able to weather the lean times without too much disruption of our important work. It's one heartening measure of an expanded consciousness, large enough to embrace both the economic and natural worlds, that may yet bring humanity back from the brink.

When we stop and think about it, we all know that an economy can't exist apart from the natural world, especially an economy like New Hampshire's that is built, in a very direct way, around this state's abundant natural treasures. And there are moral as well as economic reasons to respect and take care of the natural things that feed our bodies or our souls. Loons and other wildlife don't much care what a gallon of gas runs – it's more the externalized consequences of our conveniences that are affecting them. Of course I am preaching to the converted in this message, but it is all by way of saying thank you, for your support, especially in the hard times.

I recently saw "The Story of Stuff," a short documentary about our use of the natural world to feed consumerism in the hope (in my opinion) of filling a spiritual void that might, in large part, be due to our estrangement from our fellow man and from nature. Let's let our common desire to save a piece of this Earth bring us together in community and be an antidote to both of those things. The environmental community in New Hampshire is small but growing. Keep working to spread the message that a sound economy depends on a sound environment and viable human and wildlife communities. Keep supporting those organizations that are doing good work to encourage new, more rational ways of thinking about ourselves and our common home, whether it be LPC or some other worthy group. Keep exercising those better angels of our natures. We need to work them overtime.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Harry".

Loon Preservation Committee Biologists Co-author Paper on Loon Nesting Rafts in “*Journal of Wildlife Management*”

LPC biologists Kate Taylor, John Cooley Jr. and Harry Vogel co-authored a peer-reviewed paper titled “Reproductive Advantages for Common Loons Using Rafts” that appeared as the cover article of the prestigious *Journal of Wildlife Management* last June. The paper is based on close to 30 years of monitoring and management data from natural lakes and hydroelectric reservoirs in Maine and New Hampshire collected by the Loon Preservation Committee, BioDiversity Research Institute, FPL Energy Maine Hydro, and Fairwinds Wildlife Services.

Hydroelectric reservoirs and some natural lakes in New Hampshire and Maine have water levels that can rise or fall more than three feet in response to droughts or heavy rain. Water levels on reservoirs are also influenced by downstream water demands. Waterbodies with these characteristics can be challenging places for loons to nest successfully because their nests, built at the water’s edge, can be flooded or stranded high and dry by changing water levels. Lakes and reservoirs with extreme water level fluctuations constitute a significant portion of nesting habitat for loons in the northeastern United States.

Floating nesting rafts adjust to changing water levels and can prevent the flooding or stranding of loon nests. Rafts can also help to reduce loon nest losses to shoreline predators such as raccoons or foxes, which have increased in many areas due to human activities. This study determined the effectiveness of nesting rafts in promoting successful nesting of loons on hydroelectric



LPC biologist, Todd Loffredo, removes an abandoned loon egg from a nesting raft on Lake Winnepesaukee. Photo by Sarah Schmidt.

reservoirs and other lakes that experience dramatic changes in water levels over the course of the breeding season. It also measured the effects of several other factors on the success of raft-nesting and naturally-nesting loons.

RESULTS

We found that rafts significantly increased nesting success of loons on lakes and reservoirs with extreme water level changes. Loons nesting naturally on these waterbodies had poor nesting success, with only a third of nests producing chicks. Loons that used floating rafts on the same types of waterbodies had almost twice the nesting success of naturally nesting loons, with 65% of nests producing chicks. Only those loons using floating rafts experienced nesting success similar to that of more natural situations – i.e. birds using natural nest sites on lakes with stable water levels.

In the absence of rafts, loon breeding success on lakes and reservoirs with extreme water level changes was lower than that needed to maintain a viable loon population over time. These sites represent “ecological traps,” which are attractive to loons looking to establish breeding territories, but are rarely able to support successful breeding attempts.

Rafts also improved nest success for loon pairs occupying lakes with stable water levels. However, the benefit was less pronounced than that for loons occupying lakes with extreme water level fluctuations, and loons nesting on stable lakes tended to experience nest success sufficient to maintain viable long-term populations even without the benefit of rafts.

In this study, 76% of rafts floated in loon territories were used by loons for nesting. Of those rafts

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that were eventually used by loons, over half (51%) were used the initial year they were floated. Ninety percent of rafts that were eventually used were used by the third year (i.e., most of the rafts that were not used by the third year were never used by loons).

We found that loon nesting success decreased by 13% as development and human use of lakes increased. This result emphasized that loon populations will suffer without adequate protection of their nesting habitat, including mainland and island shorelines. It also illustrated the importance of continued education of lake users about the nesting requirements of loons, and continued management efforts by conservation organizations.

CONCLUSION

We found that floating nesting

rafts could mitigate the effects of extreme changes in water levels on nesting loons and restore nesting success to close to natural levels. Rafts can allow loons to produce chicks on reservoirs that might otherwise experience near-total reproductive failure. We recommend the provision of rafts at such sites, combined with close monitoring of loons.

Many people that learn about loon nesting rafts immediately wish to float one on their lake. Please contact the Loon Preservation Committee about the uses and limitations of rafts if you think a raft could be helpful on your lake. Baseline monitoring is required to evaluate if a loon raft would be helpful at a specific site, and some lakes simply do not have an appropriate location for a raft. Rafts can be detrimental to loons if not constructed properly, or floated in the wrong

location. LPC biologists recently co-authored a follow-up paper that detailed construction and use guidelines for loon rafts, and discussed the potential negative ecological impacts of rafts, in the journal *Northeastern Naturalist*. We will include a summary of this paper in a future issue of the *LPC Newsletter*.

Cooperative studies such as these that utilize the combined datasets of different organizations help us to better understand the uses and limitations of rafts and other management options to maintain viable loon populations in the northeast. Once published in peer-reviewed journals, scientists and wildlife managers anywhere in the world have access to our research to inform their management of loons and other birds.

~Harry Vogel



The Braun Bay pair on Winnepesaukee chose an unlikely place to mate this year. High water made for easy access onto a neighboring dock. Hopefully this pair will choose an alternate place to nest, such as the traditional nesting raft floated in the cove.

A Heartfelt "Thank You!"

LP replaced aging artificial nest rafts across the state this spring, with help from an energetic group of vacation camp raft builders in Winchester, New Hampshire. Thanks to Danielle Borges and the Rokes family and their crew in Winchester for becoming a superb raft factory in one quick week. Generous material donations from Boulia-Gorrell Lumber Co. in Laconia, and a discount on cedar logs from the GAAA Fence Company in Dover were also much appreciated. ~John H. Cooley, Jr.



Thanks to Boulia-Gorrell for extensive contributions of raft and sign lumber, flotation foam, and hardware.



Pictured: Happy campers! Participants at Winchester's E.L.M.M. Community Center spring vacation camp built seven rafts to replace old rafts on northern New Hampshire's Connecticut Lakes. 2008 North Country field biologist Keith Blanchette (bottom right) floats one of the newly constructed rafts on First Connecticut Lake.



LPC Hosts Northeast Loon Study Working Group Meeting

On April 10th-11th, the Loon Preservation Committee hosted the 19th Annual Northeast Loon Study Working Group (NELSWG) meeting at The Loon Center. NELSWG provides a forum to share new findings about the basic biology and life history of loons, much of which is still poorly understood, with researchers throughout the northeast; discuss continuing and emerging threats to loons; and assess our ability to address challenges facing loons through management and public education. Meeting as a group allows organizations that monitor state-wide loon populations to place their findings into a larger regional context, and facilitates in-depth discussions about priorities for new research and new collaborations to benefit loons.

An impressive number of not-for-profit organizations, industries, and government agencies were represented at the meeting. Among the many presentations, Chris McClelland of Colby Sawyer College (and LPC's Lake Winnepesaukee Biologist in 2007) reported on lead poisoning in loons before and since the use of lead tackle was restricted in New Hampshire. LPC staff reported initial results of the Squam Loon Study, as well as continued progress on LPC's Population Viability Analysis and Loon Recovery Plan, and summarized results of state-by-state monitoring and management efforts.

Collaborators from throughout the northeast shared their new research findings at the meeting. Mark Pokras of the Tufts Center for Conservation Medicine at Tufts University reported on causes of mortality in loons in the northeast. Mark also discussed

the potential implications of climate change on loons in the northeast and the need for more research on this subject. David Evers of the Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) in Maine summarized recent research on the effects of mercury on loons, and Wing Goodale of BRI reported on contaminants found in 23 species of birds. Eric Hanson of the Vermont Loon Recovery Program and Anika Clem, a student at Sterling College, presented research to measure the effects of development and recreational use of Vermont lakes on loons, and a study to assess the effectiveness of warning signs placed around loon nesting sites. Amy McMillan of Buffalo State University reported on her research to measure the genetic diversity of loons and identify genetic differences between loons in different parts of North America. Nina Schoch of the Adirondack Loon Conservation Program presented a new interactive web site to educate school children about challenges facing loons.

Government agencies working to protect loons and other wildlife were also well represented at NELSWG. Ken Roblee from the NY Department of Environmental Conservation reported on loon mortality from botulism outbreaks on Lake Erie. Veronica Varela of the US Fish and Wildlife Service discussed efforts to restore loons lost as a result of the Bouchard oil spill in Buzzard's Bay, MA in 2003. Anne Kuhn of the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) outlined her research on loon habitat quality assessment, and Jason Grier of USEPA presented loon population models to quantify factors limiting loon populations. Coop-

erative research involving many other agencies and organizations, including New Hampshire Fish and Game, the Canadian Wildlife Service, Plymouth State University, and the University of New Hampshire, was also presented at the meeting.

The challenges facing loons continue to grow in number and scope, and since the North American Loon Fund disbanded in 2005, loon researchers and organizations have fewer opportunities to share findings, ideas, and opportunities to collaborate to benefit loons. Several researchers and groups in the midwest and western states have expressed interest in participating in NELSWG. The meeting ended with a decision to invite groups from outside of the northeast to future NELSWG meetings, and to arrange periodic meetings of researchers and groups from throughout North America to more widely share information.

The Loon Preservation Committee and the Northeast Loon Study Working Group will continue to maintain and expand contacts among researchers and wildlife managers who are working to promote viable region-wide populations of loons and other wildlife in the northeast. In so doing, NELSWG helps ensure that LPC's work continues to provide benefits that extend beyond loons, and beyond New Hampshire.

~Harry Vogel



Stranded Loon Gets a Helping Hand

In this sequence of photos (left to right), Michael Smith releases a loon on the Connecticut River in early April. The loon was discovered on April 2 after it crash-landed on NH Route 118 near Michael's home in Dorchester, NH. Loons sometimes mistake wet pavement for open water. This loon may have been reconnoitering for lakes with enough ice-free, open water to permit landing. Special thanks to Michael for discovering this stranded bird and lending it a helping hand!



To Report a Stranded, Injured or Dead Loon,
or Loon Harassment Call. . .
Loon Preservation Committee: 603-476-5666
NH Fish & Game Dispatch: 603-271-3361

2008 LPC SUMMER STAFF



Chris Free

LAKES REGION

Chris is a junior at Middlebury College majoring in Conservation Biology. An Eagle Scout and professional Divemaster, he brings exceptional leadership and outdoor skills to the job, as well as pertinent field experience through his course work at Middlebury.



Tiffany Grade

SQUAM LAKES

Tiffany is in her third year of studies in the Forestry and Wildlife Ecology Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her goal is to work in avian conservation. She also holds a PhD in medieval history from the University of Notre Dame.



Emily Bastian

MONADNOCK

Emily recently earned a BS in Wildlife Ecology from the University of New Hampshire. Her field studies included an amphibian monitoring project in New Zealand. She looks forward to working to protect wild animals while promoting issues valuable to society.



Sarah Woodman

UMBAGOG

A senior at Unity College, Sarah is earning her BA in Wildlife Biology. She grew up canoeing on NH's lakes and ponds, and has a special interest in water birds. While at school, she has gained valuable experience handling waterfowl and birds of prey.



Keith Blanchette

NORTH COUNTRY

Keith is a junior at Unity College majoring in Wildlife Conservation. An avid outdoorsman, he is very dedicated to helping wildlife and understands the importance of conservation to preserve our wild lands. He is especially interested in species at risk.



Todd Loffredo

WINNIPESAUKEE

A recent graduate of St. Lawrence University, Todd earned a BA in both Economics and French, with a minor in Biology. His field projects included conducting field research on brown trout, as well as flying squirrel studies in northern New York.



Alexis Rudko

SEACOAST

Alexis is a graduate of Friends University with a BS in Field Biology. Her field experience includes turtle studies in Wichita, KS and ghost crabs in Galveston, TX. She looks forward to promoting conservation efforts in her home state of New Hampshire.



Michelle Kneeland

TUFTS INTERN

An incoming Tufts veterinary student, Michelle will gather and analyze loon mortality data and research causes of loon declines on Big Squam Lake. She has already tackled a crash course in ecotoxicology interpreting loon egg results.

Farewell to Kate

In the spring of 1996, LPC Director Betsy Poirier (now Ayotte) made a fateful decision to hire a young biologist named Kate Taylor to monitor loons in LPC's Monadnock Region, the southwestern corner of New Hampshire. At the end of the field season, when Betsy decided to move on to other challenges, Kate was hired to be LPC's Staff Biologist with responsibility for oversight of LPC's field program. In 1998 Kate was promoted to LPC Senior Biologist in recognition of her exemplary work and continually increasing job responsibilities. With only two recent breaks for the births of sons Taylor and Thomas, she would fill this role with skill and dedication for the next ten years. Kate was much loved by her field staffs over the years, and LPC will miss her good humor and her uncompromising dedication to quality and scientific integrity.

Before she left, Kate ensured that the transition to LPC's new Senior Biologist, John Cooley, was a smooth one. Kate will continue to serve loons and LPC on its Technical Committee (no one ever truly leaves LPC) and we will look forward to seeing her at The Loon Center from time to time.

~Harry Vogel



Welcome Chris "Biff" Conrod

Chris Conrod (known in these parts as *Biff*) joins LPC this summer as Field Program Coordinator. He has just completed a Master's program in biology at Plymouth State University (PSU) where his thesis investigated small mammal habitat use at the US Forest Service's world-renowned forest ecology study site, Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest. Chris is also interested in the landscape ecology of wildlife movement and habitat connectivity for bigger mammals that require large home ranges, like moose, bear, lynx, and cougar. He is an active member of the local wildlife tracking group, Bearcamp Trackers (see their website at www.bearcamp-trackers.org). As a student last fall in a biostatistics course at PSU, Chris used LPC's loon data to explore wildlife population modeling and ecological analysis. This summer he moves his work with loons out of the computer lab and into a kayak. He brings many valuable skills to LPC including—among other things—carpentry, land surveying, web design and wilderness trail crew leadership. We are looking forward to drawing on these talents!



Chris has kept busy building nesting rafts and floating signs to deploy at loon nest sites throughout the state.

~John H. Cooley, Jr.

A Family Tradition of Helping Loons

Peter Sorlien was introduced to loons and to Squam Lake in 1967 when his parents Ken and Chip bought land close to a nesting pair of loons in Sturtevant Cove. They spent the next few years camping alongside the loons while building their lake-side cabin. Ken quickly came to appreciate the loons and the high level of environmental awareness and concern on Squam Lake, a sentiment that was shared by Chip and Peter. Ken became a leader in efforts to monitor and protect loons on the lake, and was soon coordinating the annual Loon Census on Squam. He was also asked to serve on the Squam Lakes Association (SLA) Board and the Policy Committee of the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC).

Before his father's passing in 1994, Peter asked Ken which of his many activities he would most like to see Peter carry on. Ken's immediate answer was protecting the loons and working with the Loon Preservation Committee. By this time Peter had started his own business, Accredited Appraisers (specializing in marine art and antiques, and including items as remarkable as Jacques Cousteau's boat, the Calypso), but he still found time to pick up his father's reins and coordinate the Loon Census on Squam. Peter also accepted a position on the Squam Lakes Association Board, and while serving in this capacity was asked to join the Policy Committee of LPC and be a liaison between the two organizations. Peter quickly distinguished himself as a Policy Committee member and a member of LPC's Finance Committee. He is a strategic thinker and has an excellent knowledge of not-for-profit



Peter Sorlien tallies results of the 2007 Squam Lake Loon Census on Church Island. Photo by Joe Kabat.

governance, and was asked to serve on specially appointed committees to create LPC's Strategic Plan, and to explore LPC's evolution to a separate 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, which gave LPC greater autonomy from New Hampshire Audubon and transformed the Policy Committee to a true governing board. When Peter retired from the SLA Board after six years of service and ended his official capacity as a liaison with that board, LPC decided that Peter was too valuable to let go, and made him a Vice-Chair of the LPC Board.

Peter has enjoyed the strongly shared sense of purpose among LPC Board members, and between LPC and the Squam Lakes Association. He sees in both Squam Lakes residents and the Loon Preservation Committee a shared history of leadership in environmental matters, and a shared sense that enjoyment of a lake need not have adverse impacts on wildlife or aquatic ecosystems.

One of Peter's main interests is expanding the number and roles of LPC's volunteers, especially in areas of the state that are under-represented. He feels that a key to this effort is the summer field staff who are working on the lakes and who have the opportunity to interact with homeowners and lake users on a lake-by-lake basis.

Over the past several years, as Chip has continued to be a regular helper with LPC mailings, Peter has been active in broadening LPC's range of contacts in the state. He has also worked to secure funding for LPC's efforts, even auctioning his appraisal services at LPC's Summer Gala, as well as raising funds specifically for LPC's study into the unprecedented decline of loons on Squam Lake. And, in keeping with his father's legacy, he continues to coordinate the Loon Census on Squam Lake each year.

~Harry Vogel

Fundraising Events in Full Swing at LPC

RAFFLE QUILT

The Loon Preservation Committee is raffling a very special, one-of-a-kind quilt this year, made by Dale Cheney of Dunbarton, NH and Mark Island on Lake Winnepesaukee. Dale was contacted by chance through the internet, and when she learned that we were looking for a quilt for fundraising purposes immediately agreed to design, make and donate one. The quilt is large, measuring 82 inches by 96 inches. Cheney describes it as "a scrap quilt, made with tone on tone and plaid homespun fabrics of many colors. It is made up of traditional quilt blocks such as log cabin, bear claw, pine tree, flying geese and more. It has hand appliquéd NH wildlife animals on it and a mother loon and her baby as the centerpiece."

Dale also arranged for the machine quilting to be done by Janet-Lee Santeusano of Woodland Manor Quilting in Hampton Falls, NH. It, too, is exquisite work with that extra touch that shows that she, like Cheney, identifies with the NH wildlife theme of the quilt. Santeusano owns the largest machine quilting show in the country, Machine Quilters Exposition, which takes place annually at the Center of NH. Janet-Lee provided the actual quilting at a reduced rate for our organization. LPC would like to thank Dale Cheney, who designed and sewed the quilt and donated it to help with LPC's efforts to care for loons and their habitats. We are also grateful to Ms. Santeusano for the special service she provided.

The quilt is on display at The Loon Center. Tickets are available until November 29th, when the drawing will take place at

the annual Holiday Open House. A \$5.00 donation will give you four chances to win this beautiful quilt. If you need tickets, or more tickets, contact LPC at PO Box 604, Moultonborough, NH 03254, or 603/476-LOON(5666), or ahodges@loon.org.

BIRDATHON/BLOOMATHON

Each year the Lakes Region Chapter of Audubon conducts a Spring event that we call the Birdathon/Bloomathon. On a specific date, teams of Chapter members set out early in the morning to see how many species of birds and spring wildflowers they can see in a day. The late Betty Steele of Tamworth was the original organizer of the event, and the Birdathon/Bloomathon has become a tribute to her love of the natural world. This year the field teams, led by Ned Beecher, Tony Vazano and Chris Clyne, did their count on May 22nd and spotted 110 birds and 69 "blooms." This compares to 97 birds and 63 blooms last year.

In addition to being great fun, the Lakes Region Chapter uses this event as a fundraiser. Chapter members are contacted and asked to either send in a donation or make a per species pledge based on the number of birds and/or flowers counted. This year the Birdathon/Bloomathon has brought in over \$4,200 so far. The Chapter retains a small percentage of the income to help fund its programs, and generously donates the balance to the Loon Preservation Committee. We are grateful, indeed, for this fine fundraising effort and the results it produces.

Anyone who would like to contribute in honor of this documented arrival of Spring, on a per

species or general basis, can contact LPC (476-5666; ahodges@loon.org) or Chapter President Jane Rice (moultnews@hotmail.com). In return, we will send you a copy of the tally sheets listing all the birds and flowers counted.

FOURTH ANNUAL BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

August 18th is the date of this year's Benefit Golf Tournament. Last year the event raised over \$10,000 to help LPC with its work, and we are hoping for even greater participation and sponsorship this year.

LPC Board Chair and tournament organizer Carl Johnson is busy lining up prime sponsors and hole sponsors, and finding donations for the traditional goody bag for each participant. If you or your company have any items that could be donated for this purpose, or if you would like to be a sponsor, we'd very much appreciate hearing from you. In past years we have had baseball greats Sam Horn and Luis Tiant attend, and at least one former Red Sox player has been promised for 2008.

Ridgewood Country Club on Route 109 in Moultonborough is again the location for this morning of exercise and fun. Light breakfast will be available at registration which will begin at 7:00 a.m. Golf starts at 8:00 a.m. sharp, and is a scramble format. There will be a raffle, and prizes for closest to the pin and longest drive for both men and women. We are also hoping to again have a new car as a hole-in-one prize. So far Fairpoint Communications and Altria have signed on as major sponsors, with several other

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companies indicating that they will support the loons.

The cost to play in the tournament is \$500.00 per foursome, or \$125.00 per person. If you are interested, please contact the Loon Preservation Committee. Your support not only gives you a morning of good golf, but also helps New Hampshire's loons.

A VERY SPECIAL EVENT

On August 17th, the Loon Preservation Committee will be honoring its founder, Rawson L. Wood, by helping him celebrate his 100th birthday. Not many people on this earth dedicate as much of themselves to an ideal as Rawson has done with preserving the loon. Without his guidance, support and foresight, that haunting, soul-touching call that still echoes over New Hampshire's waters every summer might well have disappeared. We are all very appreciative of his hard work and perseverance.

We are hoping that as many former LPC Board members and staff as possible will attend this very special event that will be held at The Loon Center. Former LPC Director Jeff Fair will be traveling from Alaska to talk about Rawson's achievements. Attendance will be limited, so do let us know if you are interested in being a part of the gathering.

~Alisoun Hodges
ahodges@loon.org



"It is the personal concern by human neighbors of the loons that makes protection possible and survival a reasonable hope."

~Rawson L. Wood

Loon Preservation Committee's 31st Annual Loon Festival

Saturday, July 19th; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

at

THE LOON CENTER

CRAFTS★EXHIBITS★REFRESHMENTS... AND MORE!!!

Perennial Favorites . . .

Balloonologist, Mr. Phil & Face Painter, Mrs. Phil!



Come join in the fun!

Laurie Whitley and John McRae Retire From LPC Board

Two long-serving members recently retired from the Loon Preservation Committee Board. Laurie Whitley joined the Loon Preservation Policy Committee in 2003, and served on the Development and Events Committees. She was elected Chair of the Loon Preservation Policy Committee in 2006, and while serving as Chair, Laurie oversaw the transition of the Policy Committee to a true governing Board as part of LPC's evolution from a self-funded

and self-directed project of New Hampshire Audubon to its own 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

John McRae joined the Policy Committee in 2004, and served on the LPC Strategic Plan Committee as well as chairing LPC's Building and Grounds Committee. John also helped with carpentry projects at LPC, including building racks for the LPC field program's small fleet of kayaks and canoes.

The good news for loons and

LPC is that both of these outstanding volunteers will remain active on LPC committees. Laurie will continue to serve on the LPC Events Committee and John will continue to chair the Building and Grounds Committee. We are most grateful for their guidance and assistance to LPC in the past, and pleased that they will continue to actively work on behalf of loons on these committees.

~Harry Vogel

Loon Preservation Committee ANNUAL MEETING

The Loon Preservation Committee will hold a brief Annual Meeting on Thursday, August 28th at 8:30 pm, immediately following the 2008 Loon Season Report by LPC Executive Director Harry Vogel (see page 14). The meeting will be held at The Loon Center, 183 Lee's Mill Road, Moultonborough, NH. The LPC Board welcomes your attendance and participation.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NORDEL GAGNON

Summer 2008 Nature Talk Series
at The Loon Center
Lee's Mill Road, Moultonborough, NH
(603) 476-5666

7:30 p.m. ♦ Admission Free ♦ Donations Appreciated

Thursday, July 10th

Wildlife Tracking in the Northeast

Photographer, Park Ranger and Naturalist Ed Sharron offers a glimpse into the life of a wild animal. Footprints and tracking can often tell you how fast an animal was moving, what its mood was when it made them, what it recently had for a meal (if you should come upon scat) and more. This informative presentation features videos and animal sounds as well as track casts and skull replicas.

Thursday, July 17th

Peregrine Falcons in New Hampshire

Chris Martin has worked as a Wildlife Biologist for NH Audubon for 18 years. He will share his extensive knowledge about the life history of the Peregrine Falcon, one of the world's most dramatic raptors. You won't want to miss this!

Thursday, July 24th

Moose on the Loose in New Hampshire

New Hampshire Fish & Game Wildlife Biologist Kris Rines will talk about the moose's life cycle as well as the state's moose population, management and research. Come learn all about the behavior of our largest mammal. It's an evening the entire family will enjoy!

Thursday, July 31st

Loons – From Hatch to Fledge

New Hampshire Nature Photographer John Rockwood narrates a slide-show covering the loons' arrival in the spring through their departure for the ocean in the fall. Follow a loon pair and learn how they choose their nesting site, raise their young and depart for their wintering grounds. You'll come away with new insights and understanding of the day to day life of the Common Loon.

Thursday, August 7th

New Hampshire's Changing Climate

Co-directors of NH Carbon Challenge, an outreach initiative of UNH, Denise Blaha and Julia Dunderf will give an overview of New Hampshire's changing climate and highlight projections for this century. Think there's nothing you can do to slow climate change? Join us and learn the many ways NH residents can be a part of the solution to reduce their carbon emissions and save money in the process!

Thursday, August 14th

Geology of the Lakes Region

Dr. Jim Vernon is back this year to tell us all about the fascinating geology of the Lakes Region. Jim holds a PhD from the University of Oklahoma and is a Geologist with ENSR in Belmont, NH. Ever popular, be sure to come early for a good seat.

Thursday, August 21st

Wildlife Myths and Misconceptions

Wildlife Biologist Judy Silverberg of the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department will explore those widely held myths about some of New Hampshire's most interesting creatures. You will discover the reality behind many of our commonly held misconceptions such as whether porcupine really throw their quills, and whether coy dogs really exist.

Thursday, August 28th

2008 Loon Season Report

LPC Director Harry Vogel will present overall trends in loon populations and preliminary statistics on how loons fared in New Hampshire over the past year. Also featured will be a slide show by John Rockwood, Nature Photographer.



New Hampshire Common Loon Census
Saturday, July 19, 2008
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Lake/Pond: _____ Section: _____ Town: _____

Observer(s): _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Total number of people in party: _____

	Time	#Adults	#Chicks	#Immatures	*Location/Direction
Example	8:17	1			Flew in from east.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

TOTALS: _____

Notes:

*(1) Record only the FIRST sighting of each loon or group, then be sure to total the number of loons observed on the appropriate line. Be sure and note the direction in which the loons move or fly.

(2) It is CRITICAL that observations continue for the ENTIRE HOUR.

(3) Remember, a report of zero is just as biologically important as a report of ten loons.

CENSUS FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED BY AUGUST 1ST TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL TALLY.
A REPORT OF ZERO IS STILL VERY IMPORTANT TO THE CENSUS!

Please return this form to your coordinator, LPC staff, or to the LPC office as soon as possible.

Loon Preservation Committee, P.O. Box 604, Moultonborough, NH 03254

(603) 476-LOON (5666); Fax: (603) 476-5497

Thank you!



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