



Loon Preservation Committee **NEWSLETTER**

P.O. Box 604, Lee's Mill Road, Moultonborough, NH 03254; www.loon.org

FALL 2016



At four months old, this loon chick, one of 147 surviving chicks this year, prepares for its first migration to the ocean.

Photo Courtesy of Kittie Wilson

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

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

A Year of Good Work for Loons

Every year, a small army of volunteers and a much smaller group of dedicated loon biologists fan out across New Hampshire to help loons cope with their various challenges and produce chicks to ensure a future for their kind. This summer hopeful volunteer and professional conservationists were on 329 lakes throughout the state to secure that good result.

A loon chick doesn't just happen — it takes adult loons, of course, who've survived six years of perils, on average, to begin producing them. It also takes the help of volunteers and staff who care about loons to create the conditions in which they can live, pair, incubate eggs, and raise chicks. Loons face challenges created or exacerbated by humans at every stage of that life cycle, and our task is to help them overcome them all.

LPC staff have responded to more than 100 calls reporting loons in distress so far this year. Thankfully, the majority of those calls turned out to be vigorous preening or other normal behaviors, but LPC ended up rescuing 28 loons in trouble. Those rescues — twice the average of past years — are evidence of the growing number of challenges facing our loons. But they also indicate a growing awareness among the public of those challenges, and the readiness of trained LPC biologists to help these birds.

The Ragged Island loon pair on Lake Winnepesaukee provided a good example of the monitoring and management required to ensure success for many pairs this year. The loons nested on a raft floated by LPC biologists, John Cooley and Caroline Hughes, near the island. LPC's Winnepesaukee Biologist, James Demers, floated "Loon Nesting Area" signs around the nest, and volunteer Muriel Robinette closed a footpath on Ragged Island to ensure their success. In July, after one chick hatched, James collected a failed egg in the water near the raft. That egg, double-bagged and double-tagged, now resides in LPC's freezer awaiting the day we can analyze it for contaminants. He then floated two "Caution: Loon Chicks" signs to slow boats around the parents and their chick. When boaters reported a young loon separated from its parents, James rescued the chick and reunited the family.

From raft-floating in early May to this late-season rescue, LPC's work at Ragged Island involved many LPC staff and volunteers, close attention and careful timing, and a little bit of luck to secure a good outcome — the same mix that was true this year at many lakes around New Hampshire. Stories like this are common in every corner of the state, and they are the reason why our loons had another good year despite their many and growing challenges. With your continued care and help, we will be ready, come spring, to ensure another good year for our loons.



Modest, Hard-Won Gains for New Hampshire's Loons

It was a good, if not great, year for New Hampshire's loon population, with 293 territorial pairs, a gain of only one percent, or four pairs (two loons defending a territory for at least four weeks), compared to the 2015 tally. Although this marks a plateau in the ongoing recovery of the population — the third straight year of little or no growth — 2016 numbers were still over 25% higher than averages before the implementation of LPC's Loon Recovery Plan in 2010. LPC monitoring detected nesting at 207 territories. Ninety-six of these nesting pairs failed at least once, 31 re-nested, and a total of 126 pairs (61% of all nesting pairs) successfully hatched chicks. Seventy-two of these successful nests produced two chicks, while 54 produced only one. Of these, 198 chicks hatched and 147 survived to mid-August, the end of routine monitoring (see table below). The overall measure of reproductive success, the number of chicks surviving (CS) in August per territorial pair (TP), was 0.502.

This was slightly less than the long-term average (0.51 CS/TP, 1975-2016), but greater than the threshold rate needed to maintain the population (0.48 CS/TP). In other words, New Hampshire's breeding loons squeaked by with a modest victory in 2016!

The season saw the highest absolute number of nest failures on record (112), although the failure rate (0.54 failed attempts/nesting pair) was in the middle of the pack, ranking 22nd of the 42 years of monitoring. There was no clear across-the-board cause for nest failures in 2016. No major storm events occurred, and nest predation rates were comparable to other recent years. It was a warm,



Photo Courtesy of Kittie Wilson

Black flies tormented loons at nests like this one on Pleasant Lake in New London.

dry summer, and a bad black fly season for loons, and we noted some nests that appeared to have been abandoned because of the black flies. Other known causes for nest failure included avian predation (2), mammalian predation (24), unknown predation (3), disturbance by intruding loons (2), direct human disturbance (5), flooding (5), and stranding as

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Results and Highlights for 2016 Common Loon Breeding Season in New Hampshire

Population and Productivity	2016	Pre-LRP (2005-2009 ave.)	2016 vs. pre-LRP
Territorial Loon Pairs	293	231	27%
Immatures	5	5	0%
Nesting Pairs	207	155	34%
Chicks Hatched	198	138	43%
Chicks Survived to mid-August	147	105	40%
Nest Failures	112	78	44%
Chicks Surviving/Territorial Pair	0.502	0.46	10%
Management Activity			
Rafts (including Umbagog NWR)	100	56	79%
Signs/Ropes	98	61	61%
Successful Rescue/Releases	12	2.4	400%

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water levels dropped (2). A higher collection rate for whole, unhatched eggs (70 eggs) was consistent with influences like black flies or extreme hot or cold weather that may interfere with incubation or make the eggs inviable.

Most of the nine monitoring regions around the state saw lower breeding success than in 2015 (a very good year) and were similar to their averages before 2015 (i.e. 2010-2014). Differences among the regions were consistent with past trends, with Sunapee above average and the bigger lakes (Winnepesaukee, Squam, and Massabesic, which saw the lowest productivity [0.14 CS/TP]) considerably lower than the other regions. The exceptions in 2016 were Umbagog, which had a second year of banner success (trailing only the Sunapee region) and Seacoast lakes, which bounced back from a below-average year in 2015 to rank third, behind Sunapee and Umbagog.

Management

This year LPC volunteers and staff floated a record 100 rafts.



Photo Courtesy of Deb Adams

Volunteers, Bill Considine (left) and Wayne Adams, float a nest sign on Crystal Lake in Enfield.

Forty-seven of these rafts were used by loons, hatching 43 chicks. Ninety-eight loon pairs and their nests or chicks were protected with signs, or signs and ropelines, and these protected sites hatched 99 chicks (50% of all chicks hatched). LPC also worked closely with the Department of Environmental Services Dam Bureau to educate dam owners on 160 impounded lakes with active loon territories. Including water level coordination, signs and ropelines, and nest raft provision,

88% of chicks hatched in New Hampshire this summer came from a managed territory. As always, our thanks go out to all the volunteers and field crewmembers who wrestled these many rafts and signs into place (and back again).

Rescues and Mortalities

We responded to numerous distressed loon reports and, by press time in late-October, had rescued 28 loons since January. The winter rescues were reported in our Summer 2016 newsletter. Since May, we have helped rescue and release two adult loons that were tangled in fishing line; an adult, juvenile, and immature loon with undetermined problems; and a stranded Red-throated Loon. Additional cases where the rescued loon did not survive include four adult loons (unknown cause, stranding, infection, and fishing line entanglement) and six loon chicks that were either starving or injured. LPC continues to rely on an incredible network of veterinarians and wildlife rehabilitators to care for rescued loons and support the investigation of loon mortalities.

We have collected 26 loon mortalities since mid-May. These



Tufts veterinary intern, Travis Grodkiewicz, helps modify a nesting sign where chicks have hatched. This sign was the farthest north of any sign in 2016, a few miles from the border with Canada, on First Connecticut Lake.

include 16 adult loons with causes including conspecific (loon-inflicted) injury, fishing line entanglement, lead poisoning, disease/infection, boat strike, and gun shot, with some necropsies still pending. We have collected eight juvenile loons, including one that was preyed on by a Bald Eagle. Two immature loons (1-2 year olds) were also collected.

Banding Research

LPC's capture work to sample and mark individual breeding loons involved 24 nights and 30 waterbodies this year. We banded 34 adult loons and two juveniles and recaptured ten previously-banded adult loons. Six of the recaptured loons had been originally banded recently, within the last five years; but three others were banded in 1999 and one in 2003 and are now in their early twenties, at least. We realized at one point this year that the recaptured loons we were handling were often older than (most of) the human crew in the boat!

Unfortunately, the healthy loons we captured this summer were subject to the same good and bad luck affecting the population as a whole. The male loon banded in June at Cold Spring Pond, for example, was found to have high blood lead levels and died of lead poisoning from ingested fishing tackle only a few days after we captured him. A male loon banded at Kelley Cove on Winnepesaukee in July was killed by trauma consistent with a boat strike a few weeks later. And the male loon banded in mid-August on Kanasatka was found to be tangled in fishing line in mid-September and did not survive.

Sightings of previously-banded loons through photographs taken from a respectful distance or careful observation with binoculars are essential to following the



Field program coordinator, Caroline Hughes, and Lakes Region biologist, Lindsay Moulton, celebrate the end of a ¼ mile hike with 100 lbs of banding equipment on the last night of banding work (the 24th!) in late August.

movements and behavior of these individual loons over their lifespans. In 2016, volunteers and field staff confirmed the return of almost 100 banded loons around the state. Many of these loons are familiar to the observers from years and years of tenure on a given lake or territory. The most famous, photographed by Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge staff and back again for at least the 24th year on territory (so probably at least in her late 20s) the Sweat's Meadow female, was banded as an adult in 1993 and is the oldest known breeding loon in the Northeast.

Field Volunteers

Field monitoring and management drew on volunteers from around the state in many ways in 2016. Including active loon watchers and July census participants, over 800 people contributed more than 6,200 hours of time to loon conservation work with LPC. This is a substantial increase from the 5,000 hours logged in 2015. Volunteers and staff cele-

brated the season with a series of August potlucks at the Harris Center in Hancock, Canaan Meetinghouse, and The Loon Center, with over 70 people turning out altogether. This is a great way for LPC staff to recognize our many volunteers for their hard work and dedication throughout the season. It also gives our volunteers an opportunity to meet other loon watchers and share stories from their lake.

July Census

On July 16, 526 observers covered 121 of New Hampshire's lakes during the annual volunteer Loon Census event, about one-third of the lakes that LPC surveys and monitors annually. A total of 445 adult loons, 3 immature loons, and 74 loon chicks were tallied. The census turned up a few surprises this year, including a late nest on Ossipee Lake. Horn Pond in Wakefield, Baxter Lake in Rochester, Russell Pond in Woodstock, and Perkins Pond in Sunapee were added to

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our list of census lakes, and participants on Streeter Pond celebrated the first-ever loon chicks there in at least 40 years!

The coordinated census on bigger lakes is a helpful check on abundance where multiple loon territories make an accurate count more challenging. These lakes and their participants included: Conway (18), Franklin Pierce (12), Goose Pond (16), Great East (10), Mascoma (19), Massabesic (11), Newfound (26), Ossipee (12), Pine River Pond (14), Squam Lakes (57), Sunapee (15), Wentworth (20), Winnepesaukee (50), and Winnisquam (19). We were pleased to have over 50 new census participants this year, continuing to make the census a needed blend of new and experienced hands. Better weather this year probably contributed to a greater turnout and a slightly higher number of adult loons observed this year than last. Please mark your calendars for next year's loon census: July 15, 2017.

Land Conservation Protects Loon Habitat on Bow Lake

Intensive loon nest site man-

agement at Bow Lake (two nest rafts, and signs at three nesting territories) got a helping hand this year from land conservation projects—one completed last fall and one currently underway. In 2015, island property owners, Hammond Brown and Liza Evans, worked with local land trust Bear-Paw Regional Greenway, to place permanent conservation easements on two islands on the north end of the lake, protecting a newly established loon nesting area. This year, the land trust is turning its efforts to Bennett Island, initiating a campaign with the Montville family to permanently protect that 10-acre undeveloped island, which has an eagle nest and a loon nesting raft along its shorelines. The Brown family and Bennett Island projects both carry on the long tradition of loon protection on Bow Lake, with the promise of permanent, natural, undisturbed shoreline.

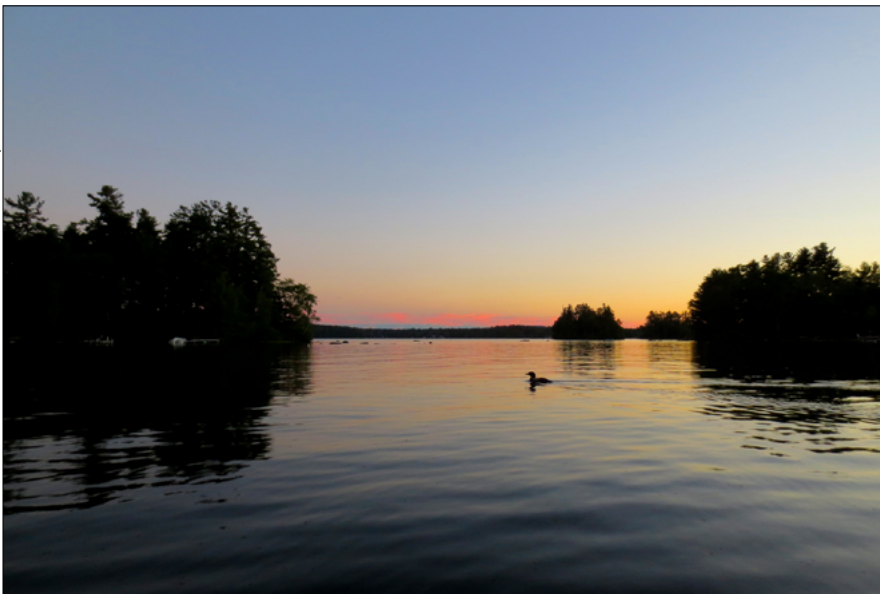
Survey Effort and Expanded Crew

An intrepid crew of six seasonal field biologists, three interns, and a cooperating Fish

and Wildlife Service technician joined forces with hundreds of volunteers around the state to monitor 329 lakes and ponds and over 460 occupied or potential loon territories this year. And the monitoring surveys were not a trouble-free effort this year! At different times, five of the six field crew found their personal vehicles—tasked with criss-crossing the state five or six or seven days a week with a kayak tied to the roof—headed for at least a day in the shop, for everything from a new set of tires to a whole new exhaust system. Unfortunately, our original Monadnock field biologist was unable to complete the second half of the season. We substituted a stellar combination of pinch-hitters though—volunteers Phil Brown, Brian Reilly, Mark Wilson, and others, as well as LPC staff, Caroline Hughes and Isabel Brintnall, to ensure that the lakes were covered, the signs were floated, and the rafts were pulled. In this instance, as in our monitoring in other parts of the state, we benefited tremendously by being able to lean on expert volunteers, enthusiastic former field biologists, and paid staff willing to go the extra mile (or hundred miles). Isabel also did double duty as a field biologist at large and a graduate student this summer, writing up her Antioch University New England thesis project, an analysis of the impact of boat recreation on nesting and brooding loons on lakes in western New Hampshire.

Several of this summer's field crew were involved in loon rescues and other exploits. Winnepesaukee field biologist, James Demers, found himself helping to reunite an abandoned loon chick with its parents at Ragged Island in July and then rescued a beached loon chick at Great East Lake in August that was suc-

Photo Courtesy of Ellie Daniels



Land conservation projects underway at Bow Lake will protect critical loon nesting habitat.

cessfully rehabilitated. Seacoast biologist, Ellie Daniels, had a busy rescue season, tending to several injured loons on Northwood, Pleasant, and Bow Lakes, but also saving an egg the day it was laid on Jenness Pond. In that case, windy weather in mid-June had blown all of the nesting material off of the raft. When Ellie arrived, the egg was perched on the brink, about to roll into the water. With raft, loon, and kayak bobbing in the whitecaps, Ellie was able to restore the egg and nest material—a borrowed bag of garden mulch from a neighboring homeowner—and let the female loon return to the raft to put down a second egg. Twenty-seven days later—two loon chicks! On Hermit Lake in New Hampton, Lakes Region field biologist, Lindsay Moulton, and volunteers actually rescued a human—a gentleman in a swamped, leaking (like a sieve, according to Lindsay) rowboat with a stalled motor and no lifejacket. He was pulled to safety just as the boat went down. Less glamorous but still noble were nest raft retrievals by field intern, Sabrina Tedeschi, and coordinator, Caroline Hughes, and Caroline’s knack for discovering dead loons (two) on her surveys. Sabrina also recorded LPC’s first gondola-assisted survey, checking the high-elevation Loon Pond at the top of Loon Mountain ski area in Lincoln, NH.

Acknowledgments

LPC’s field program is a grassroots enterprise that relies from start to finish on the good will and generous support of vendors, merchants, volunteers, veterinarians, and all manner of friends of loons who have provided needed help at the last minute, or before we knew we needed it, many times, over many years. We are bound to leave out, by accident, a



LPC veterinary intern, Travis Grodkiewicz (center), along with LPC volunteer, Patricia Cooper, help Plymouth Animal Hospital staff radiograph a rescued loon from Tarleton Lake in Piermont.

few, but we know the following provided key support: Bio-Diversity Research Institute, Phil Brown, Eagle Optics, Bill Gassman, the Glover family, Goodridge Lumber, Irwin Marine, Lake Francis State Park, Manchester Water Authority, Marine Patrol, Mead Base/Friends of Mead, NH Department of Environmental Services Dam Bureau, NH Fish and Game (Dispatch, Conservation Officers, and Nongame Staff), Novagrade, Dr. Mark Pokras, DVM, Brian Reilly, the Risley family, Sealite Buoys, Squam Boat Livery, Squam Lakes Association, Tufts University, US Fish & Wildlife Service – Concord (Drew Major, Latice Fuentes), the VonMerten family, John and Kit-tie Wilson, and Mark Wilson.

LPC continues to rely on an incredible network of veterinar-

ians and rehabilitators to care for rescued loons and support the investigation of loon mortalities. We were especially grateful in the 2016 season to our local veterinarians at Meadow Pond Animal Hospital in Moultonborough for their availability and attention to rescued loons. We also extend our sincerest gratitude to: Avian Haven, Capital Area Veterinary Emergency Service, Interlakes Animal Hospital, Kim Johnsen, Littleton Area Veterinary Emergency Service, Marc Payne, Plymouth Animal Hospital, Kappy Sprenger, Catherine Greenleaf and St. Francis Bird Hospital, Weare Animal Hospital, Wendell Animal Hospital, Diane Winn, Maria Colby and Wings of Dawn, and York Center for Wildlife.

~John H. Cooley

The dramatic increases in LPC’s monitoring, research, management, and education to recover loons have been funded by critical donations to LPC’s Loon Recovery Plan. For more information about the Loon Recovery Plan or to make a donation, please contact Harry Vogel, Senior Biologist/Executive Director at 603-476-5666 or hvogel@loon.org.

Eureka! LPC Identifies Possible Point Sources of Contaminants in Squam Lake

“Eureka!” moments are rare in science, which generally proceeds by small, incremental steps—little pieces of information that form a big picture. But a “Eureka!” moment hit LPC when we saw the results of our sediment testing for contaminants in the tributaries flowing into Squam. Results pointed to a likely source for at least some of the contaminants we have been finding in Squam’s loon eggs. This is an exciting development and one towards which LPC has been working since the discovery of high levels of chemical contaminants in Squam loon eggs in 2007. The search to identify these sources has been a long and iterative process, one which has led us from loon occupancy and productivity patterns on Squam to Squam’s hydrology to crayfish to sediments. Before we look at what we found and what it means for Squam’s loons, let’s take a (very!) brief look back at what led us to these sites.

During the initial loss of adult loons in 2005, loon pairs disappeared from the northeastern section of the lake, and breeding success collapsed for the surviving pairs in subsequent years. LPC hypothesizes that, among many other threats facing Squam’s loon population, high levels of contaminants may have contributed to these declines. Contaminants in loon eggs for the surviving pairs tracked the water flow pattern on Squam, which is from the northeast out to Little Squam. This evidence, in conjunction with elevated contaminants levels in crayfish sampled from the northeastern coves, supported the hypothesis of a possible point source for contaminants in the northeast-

ern portion of the lake. To further test this hypothesis, LPC tested crayfish collected from five north-eastern tributaries. The results of these tests revealed that levels of PCB’s in one tributary (sampling site named K1 in Figure 1) were 34.7 times higher than the geometric mean of other tributaries tested, and levels of PBDE’s in a second tributary were 3.6 times higher than the geometric mean of other tributaries tested. After unsuccessful efforts to capture crayfish higher up in these tributaries of interest, LPC collected and tested 18 sediment samples to pinpoint the sources of these contaminants (Figure 1). This leads us to the “Eureka” moment...

As I opened the spreadsheet from the contaminants lab showing the results for our sediment tests for PCB’s, I needed to look twice (or, more accurately, 3-4 times!) to make sure I was reading it correctly. The K1 sampling site—the same location where the crayfish were high for PCB’s—tested 125 times higher than the geometric mean of the other sites tested (Figure 2). The other sites labeled with a letter “K” on the graph come from the same tributary, and the low PCB levels from higher up this tributary suggest that K1 is the hotspot. Levels of total PCB’s found at K1 approach the level identified by the Canadian Ministry of the Environment for risk of harm to aquatic life

(Figure 2; the United States has not issued sediment guidelines for any of the contaminants LPC tested).

As further test results came in, we learned that the K1 site was also elevated for dioxins and furans (industrial byproducts), with levels at the K1 site six times higher than the geometric mean of those of the other tributaries sampled (Figure 3). When combined with PCB’s that are chemically similar to dioxins and are referred to as “dioxin-like compounds,” levels of dioxins and dioxin-like compounds were ten times higher at the K1 site than the geometric mean of the other tributaries sampled and exceeded levels identified by the Canadian government for potential risk to aquatic life (Figure 3).

So what is happening at the

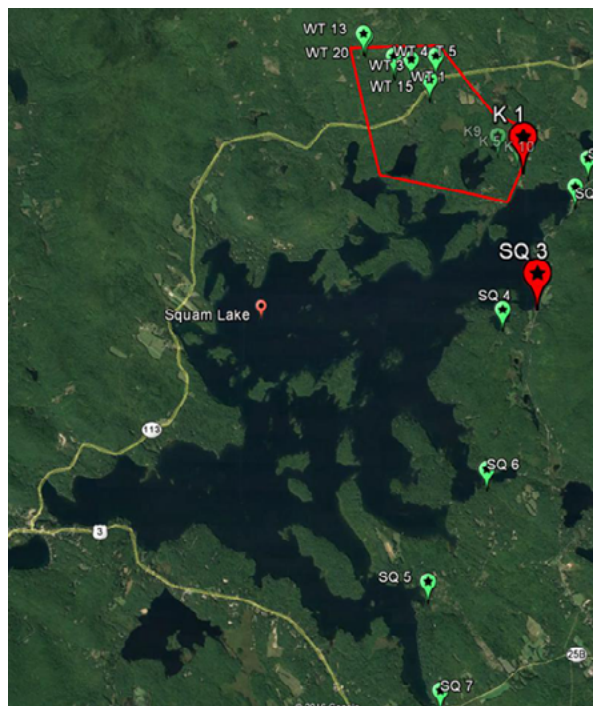


Figure 1: Locations of sediment samples collected in the fall of 2015 and submitted for contaminant testing.

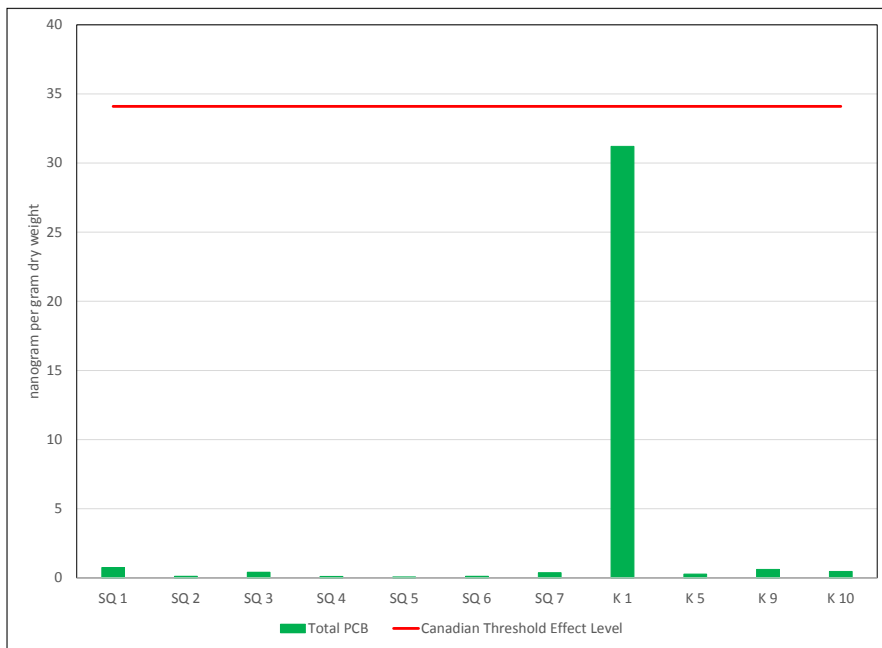


Figure 2: Total PCB levels of sediment samples collected from tributaries flowing into Squam Lake. The level of total PCB's at the K1 site is 125 times greater than the geometric mean of the other sites tested. The United States has not issued sediment contaminant guidelines, but the level of total PCB's at K1 approaches the level identified by the Canadian government as presenting a risk to aquatic life (the red line represents the Canadian Threshold Effect Level [TEL]).

site were 24 times higher than the geometric mean of the other tributaries sampled (Figure 4) and exceeded the levels identified by the Canadian government for potential risk to aquatic life. The suggestion of recent inputs came from the contaminant profile of total DDT, which indicated that the level of DDT was much greater than those of DDD and DDE (Figure 4). Given that DDT was banned in the 1970's, we would expect the profiles to show much greater levels of DDD and DDE if these were inputs from prior to the ban. The profile suggests that the DDT input into the system occurred approximately 2-3 years prior to sample collection in the fall of 2015. It is unclear whether this tributary is the source of long-term DDT inputs into Squam. Two other sampling locations (K1 and SQ7), while having much lower DDT levels than SQ3, also

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K1 site? K1 is located just downstream from a dirt road and at the base of a downslope in the road, so runoff from the road would collect in that location. The town of Sandwich historically spread oil on dirt roads to keep the dust down in the summer. Some of this oil may have been contaminated with the chemicals we are finding at this location. The other sampling sites on this tributary (K5, K9, and K10) were all upstream of the road, suggesting that the road is the point source of contamination on this tributary.

Even worse than the K1 site's PCB and dioxin/furan levels, however, was another tributary (SQ3) in which we discovered recent inputs of DDT in the sediments. Over time, DDT breaks down into two other chemicals—DDD and DDE. Levels of total DDT (which includes breakdown products DDD and DDE) at this

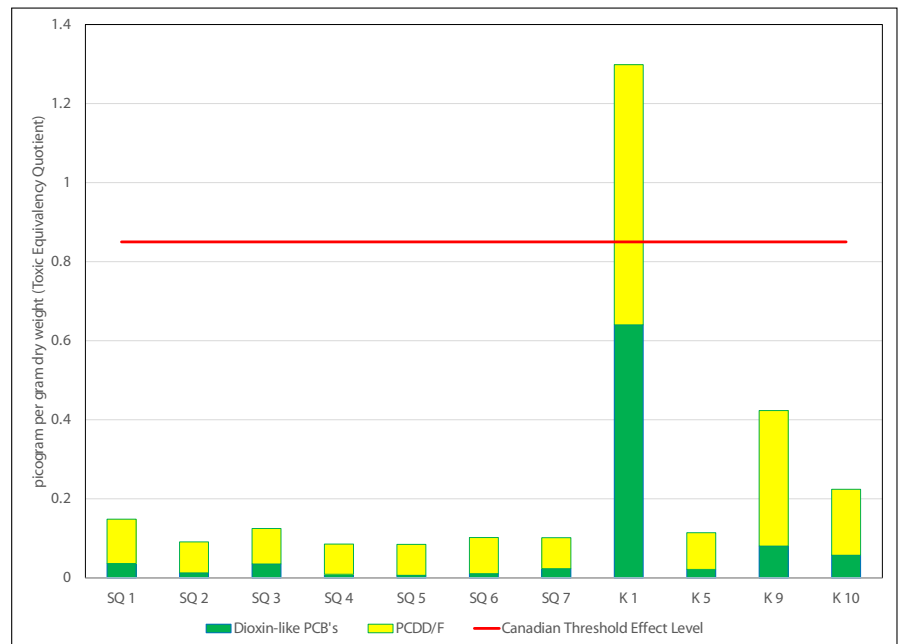


Figure 3: Toxic equivalency (TEQ) levels of dioxins and furans (PCDD/F's) and dioxin-like compounds in sediment samples collected from tributaries flowing into Squam Lake. The level of dioxins and dioxin-like compounds at the K1 site is 10 times greater than the geometric mean of the other sites tested and exceeds the level identified by the Canadian government as presenting a risk to aquatic life (the red line represents the Canadian Threshold Effect Level [TEL]).

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indicated recent DDT inputs in the contaminant profiles (Figure 4).

The results of LPC's efforts to identify the source(s) of flame retardants (PBDE's) into Squam were less definitive than these other contaminants. Flame retardant levels in sediment samples from the key tributary identified by crayfish testing were variable and substantially lower than the threshold level identified by the Canadian government as being potentially harmful to aquatic life. It is possible that, over a decade after the initial spike in contaminant levels, flame retardants are not present in surface sediments at levels that would provide a strong enough signal to identify the potential point source.

So where does this leave us? These findings are the result of many years of careful science and hard work by LPC to identify the sources of the contaminants entering Squam Lake. Some point sources may be impossible to identify at this point, as seems to be the case with the flame retardants, but LPC did further sampling this fall to investigate other possible point sources. We will also be conducting further sampling on the SQ3 tributary to narrow down exactly at which point on the tributary the DDT is entering the system. LPC Staff had a preliminary meeting in June with representatives from Department of Environmental Services (DES) to present our data and discuss remediation, and we will have a follow-up meeting with representatives from a variety of state agencies this fall to discuss measures to mitigate these contaminated sites and prevent further entry of contaminants into Squam from these point sources.

LPC's scientific research is always focused on investigations that will have tangible benefits

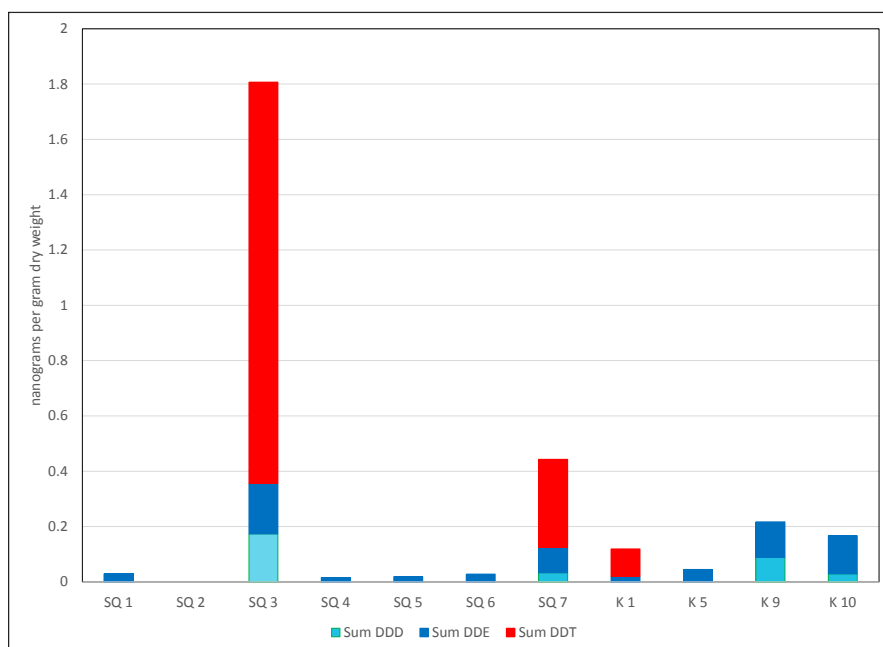


Figure 4: Levels of total DDT in sediment samples collected from tributaries flowing into Squam Lake. The level of total DDT at the SQ3 site is 24 times greater than the geometric mean of the other sites tested. The preponderance of DDT at the SQ3, SQ7, and K1 sites over the breakdown products DDD and DDE suggests recent inputs of DDT into the system.

to loons. As indicators of the health of the aquatic ecosystem, loons are sentinels that tell us when something is wrong in their environment, as they did on Squam Lake. The tragic decline of Squam's loon population has led LPC down strange roads, demonstrating the complexity of interconnected threats that may contribute to the crash of loon populations and teaching us about the

effects of multiple stressors on New Hampshire's state-wide loon population. But these long winding roads led to several "Eureka!" moments that we hope will help LPC's work to restore a healthy population of loons to Squam, for the sake of the loons and of the health of the entire Squam ecosystem.

~Tiffany Grade

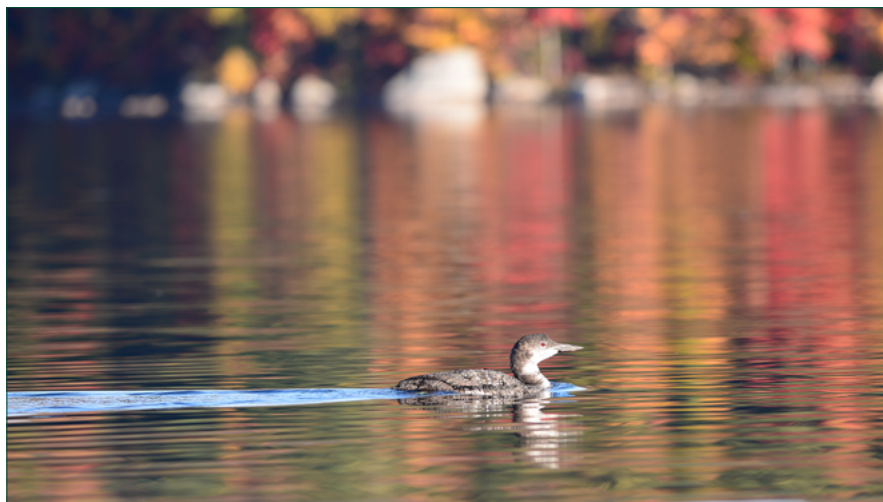


Photo Courtesy of Kirtie Wilson



Loon Preservation Committee

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

APRIL 1, 2015 - MARCH 31, 2016

The Loon Preservation Committee exists to restore and maintain a healthy population of loons throughout New Hampshire; to monitor the health and productivity of loon populations as sentinels of environmental quality; and to promote a greater understanding of loons and the natural world.

When the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) began its work some 41 years ago, it was hoped that thoughtful and coordinated human activities could reverse the decline in New Hampshire's loon population. While we have been successful in increasing the loon population in New Hampshire, we have a long way to go to restore the population to historical levels. Particularly in the past decade or so, it has become increasingly difficult to remediate the stressors that challenge the breeding success of our loons.

It seems as time goes by, we not only have to continue to invest time, effort, and money to maintain what we have already accomplished, but we also have to invest more time, effort, and money to take the research to the next level and the level after that. Otherwise, we will be at risk of the loon population stagnating or even precipitously declining again. We are also finding that each step forward is almost exponentially more complex than the previous, requiring a great deal more time, effort, and money to move forward. When it comes to the science involved in our work, we are fortunate to be able to collaborate with many individuals at universities including: University of New Hampshire, Plymouth State University, and Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, as well as Biodiversity Research Institute, NH Audubon, NH Department of Environmental Services, NH Fish and Game, and the Northeast Loon Study Working Group, which includes organizations committed to improving loon health and productivity from throughout the northeastern United States.

Our audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year that ended March 31, 2016 (FY2016) show our revenue exceed our expenses by a modest \$60,720 or 8%. This surplus has been applied to work undertaken in the new fiscal year. The accompanying charts and tabulations provide a four-year summary of our financial reports. The full report is available for review at The Loon Center and at the LPC website, <http://www.loon.org/financial.php>.

Although I will continue to serve LPC, this is my last annual message to our members, as I will shortly complete my three-year term as Trustee Chair. It has been an honor to serve as Chair and come to appreciate all of the great work performed by our staff and volunteers to support our loons. I have also gained a new appreciation of our donors, without whom we would be unable to continue the increasingly complex work to restore and maintain our loon population.

Thank you,

Ron Baker

Ron Baker
Trustee Chair



KITTIE WILSON



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:

Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) volunteers and staff have monitored loons throughout New Hampshire since 1975 to assess threats to loons and to measure our success in recovering the state's threatened loon population. In Fiscal Year 2016 (ending March 31st of 2016), the sixth year of the Loon Recovery Plan's implementation, LPC added a 41st year of data to what was already the most comprehensive and longest-running database of loon populations and productivity anywhere in the world. Staff and volunteers floated 85 loon nesting rafts, and loons nesting on those rafts hatched 54 chicks – one of every four chicks hatched in the state. LPC floated "Loon Nesting Area" signs at 105 loon territories, and loons protected by these measures produced over half of the loon chicks hatched in New Hampshire. We also researched new and increasing threats to our loons and gave 113 exhibits/presentations – twice as many as before the implementation of the Loon Recovery Plan – to teach people about loons and their needs.

The result of those efforts was a record number of chicks on our lakes – over 90% of them hatched from pairs that benefitted directly from LPC's management. The 174 chicks surviving in August and presumed to have fledged from New Hampshire lakes represent a breeding success of 60 surviving chicks per 100 loon pairs, a rate that is 42% higher than before the dramatically increased management and outreach funded through the Loon Recovery Plan.

As promising as those statistics seem, we will be challenged to maintain that success rate in the face of increasing threats to our loon population – and LPC staff also collected eight adult loons that perished as a direct result of human activities. Ingested lead fishing tackle was a confirmed cause of death of five loons. LPC's data and outreach to legislators resulted in a major victory for loons with the passage of legislation (Senate Bill 89) to increase the sizes of lead-headed jigs restricted for use and sale in New Hampshire in 2013. A necessary compromise to ensure passage of the bill was a delay in implementation of the law until June of 2016, and LPC continued to work in FY2016 to encourage early adoption of the new jig standard through a range of new outreach and education initiatives.

The support of its many volunteers, members, and friends allowed LPC to significantly expand its work in FY2016 in response to the growing challenges facing loons. With your continued support, we will continue our work to safeguard loons and recover a viable loon population in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Harry Vogel
Senior Biologist/
Executive Director



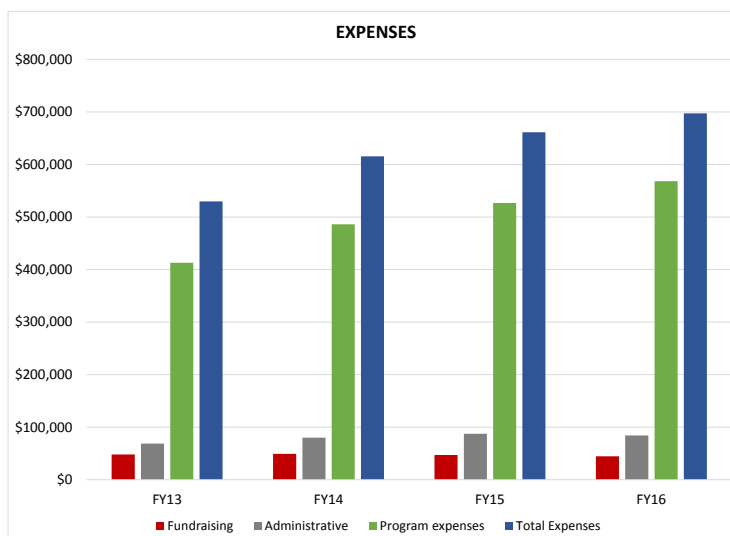
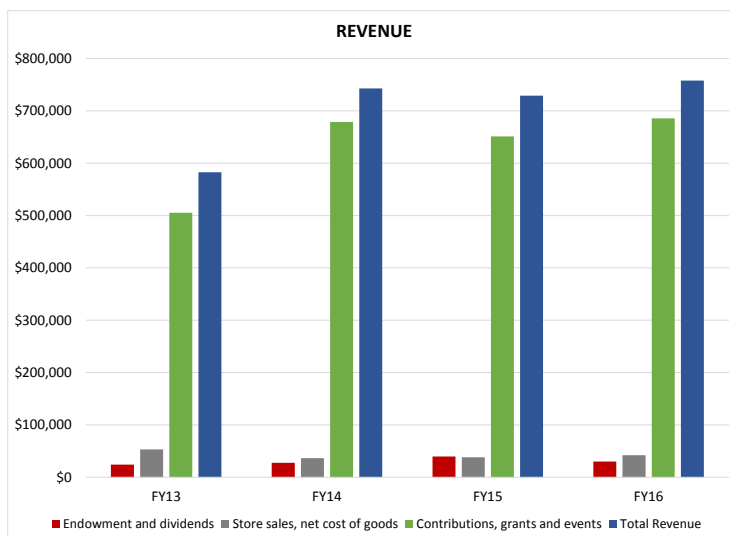
LPC Seacoast Biologist, Ray Lewis, floats a Loon Nesting Sign. Signs like these protected 105 nesting pairs of loons in 2015.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

Loon Preservation Committee: Summary of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

Fiscal Year Ending: March 31

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16
Revenue:				
Contributions, Grants and Events	\$505,241	\$678,699	\$651,074	\$685,725
Store Sales, Net Cost of Goods	\$53,134	\$36,439	\$38,231	\$42,188
Endowment and Dividends	\$24,234	\$27,701	\$39,616	\$29,973
Total Revenue	\$582,609	\$742,839	\$728,921	\$757,886
Expenses:				
Program Expenses	\$412,922	\$486,187	\$526,666	\$568,278
Administrative	\$68,774	\$80,002	\$87,403	\$84,191
Fundraising	\$48,030	\$49,211	\$47,161	\$44,697
Total Expenses	\$529,726	\$615,400	\$661,230	\$697,166
Increase in Net Assets:	\$52,883	\$127,439	\$67,691	\$60,720



The Loon Preservation Committee partnered with NH Fish and Game as part of a region-wide initiative called Fish Lead Free (www.fishleadfree.org), which is dedicated to providing resources for anglers across New England to make the switch to lead-free tackle such as steel, tungsten, tin, and bismuth.

LPC's financial records are audited by Rowley & Associates, PC of Concord, NH. Copies of the audit and the IRS 990 return are available upon request at The Loon Center, Moultonborough NH.

LPC AT A GLANCE



A new Squam Lake field boat was purchased with the generous support of donors to the Squam Lake Loon Initiative (SLLI), as well as with help from long-time LPC supporters Sally and Tom Daigneault of Squam Boat Livery (pictured with LPC Squam Lake Biologist Tiffany Grade).

A record-warm winter resulted in areas of open water on many of New Hampshire's lakes. Some loons stayed too long, molted their flight feathers, and were rendered flightless and unable to escape encroaching ice. LPC Senior Biologist, John Cooley, was well equipped with a winter rescue suit thanks to generous donations to the Loon Recovery Plan (LRP). Here Cooley rescues one of five loons trapped in the ice on Lake Sunapee in late January.

A winter rescue suit, purchased with funds from the Loon Recovery Plan, was put to good use rescuing loons stranded in the ice on lakes throughout the state last winter.



A parasitic meront (an intracellular cluster of developing malaria organisms) is visible in the wall of a capillary in this cross-section of brain tissue from a loon mortality on Lake Umbagog in June 2015, the first loon anywhere in the northeast known to have been killed by Avian Malaria.



Population and Productivity:

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16
Territorial Loon Pairs	280	284	289	289
Nesting Pairs	188	180	208	211
Chicks Hatched	170	157	203	234
Chicks Surviving to mid-August	134	119	154	174



In Fiscal Year 2016, the sixth year of the Loon Recovery Plan's implementation, LPC added a 41st year of data to what was already the most comprehensive and longest-running database of loon populations and productivity anywhere in the world!

Photographing Wintering Loons: Challenging Conditions, Exciting Discoveries!

Searching for Snowy Owls during the heavy snow winter of 2014 led Kittie and John Wilson to Biddeford Pool, Maine. They found a Snowy but were also thrilled to find a group of loons bobbing among the lobster boats! This discovery marked the beginning of the annual “Wilson Winter Loon Study,” which has provided a bit more insight into the little-known world of wintering loons. Following are excerpts from their journal:

March 8, 2014

Biddeford Pool, ME

Snow waist high with huge drifts;

32 degrees; 20 mph winds

Five loons observed inside The Pool. (The Pool is a large opening off the ocean, about half of which becomes mud flats at low tide.)

All in various stages of molt from gray winter plumage to black-and-white breeding plumage. Largest loon has an almost all black head. His wings are about half black-and-white pattern. A flash of green on one loon indicates a band! Can't wait to check that again. Loons are diving and



Photo Courtesy of Kittie Wilson

A loon bobs among moored boats on a snowy day in Biddeford Pool, Maine.

eating crabs in about 10 feet of water as we watch from the jetty.

March 14, 2014

Biddeford Pool, ME

Still lots of snow and drifts,

20 degrees; 16 mph winds

No loons in The Pool. Binocular search discovered 6-8 loons outside The Gut among the buoys of Wood Island Harbor. (The Gut is an opening about 150 feet wide and 10 feet deep that connects The Pool to Wood Island Harbor.)

Too far away for photographs or detailed observation. We will be sure to arrive at low tide, as the loons seem more likely to be in The Pool at that time.

Our New Hampshire loons winter just off the New England coastline, tucking themselves in nooks and crannies that exist all along the coast. We know that, when spring comes, they demonstrate site fidelity and return to their lake or nearby lakes. Winter loon studies are beginning to show that our loons demonstrate site fidelity for their winter home as well. There is also evidence that a nesting pair does not winter together. They go their separate ways each to their own winter site.

March 22, 2014

Biddeford Pool, ME

Melting snow; 32 degrees; 15 mph winds

We are so hoping to photograph our green-banded loon again! But what are the chances? The loons are here today, six of them in The Pool, all fishing for crabs. Each

continued on page 16



The Pool is a popular foraging spot for loons at low tide where they dive for crabs in shallow water.

Photo Courtesy of Kittie Wilson

continued from page 15

seems to have their own special way to eat a crab. Some fling the crab into the air as if they are playing with it, others carefully pick off the legs before swallowing, and others just chow them down. We have affectionately named the largest loon "Old Grizzly." He hangs out near the jetty where we are standing, so he has become our most photographed loon. It is fascinating to watch the loons molt from gray to black-and-white breeding plumage. We are so used to seeing the process in reverse on the lakes. Old Grizzly has an almost complete black head now and is far ahead of the others in his molt. Given his size, we suspect he is a male. Just as we are about to leave, one of the loons that has been at a distance swims over to Grizzly. AND THIS IS THE BANDED LOON!!!! We can't wait to look at the photographs!!!!!!!!!!

Examination of the photographs showed the details of the banded loon: Left leg-Yellow over Red with a White Stripe. Right leg-Green over Silver. John Cooley kindly tracked down the recorded history of this loon. This banded loon is a female from Echo Cove on Mooselookmeguntic Lake in Maine. She was captured and banded in 2012 and, at that time, did not have a mate or chicks. The best guess is



Photo Courtesy of Kittie Wilson

A loon swims amongst ice floats during a harsh winter on the coast in Biddeford Pool, Maine.

that she is five years old. Mooselookmeguntic is about 130 miles almost straight north of Biddeford Pool.

SO...fast forward to 2015! We couldn't wait to get back to Biddeford Pool and the wintering loons. Several visits in January produced loon sightings but no bands.

January 31, 2015

Biddeford Pool, Maine

30 inches of snow with huge drifts;

15 degrees; 32 mph winds

Frustrating conditions with wind and cold and the challenge of making our way to the jetty through waist high snow! Our group of loons all seemed to be way out in Wood Island Harbor. After a while, two loons appeared

in The Gut. AND ONE WAS OUR BANDED LOON!!!! Yes, Mrs. Mooselookmeguntic has returned!!! We were suddenly warm as we jumped about with delight!

We sent the photographs to LPC on Monday and received a quick reply from John Cooley: "Spectacular! This is better than the Patriots winning in the last 20 seconds!"

Site fidelity had been proven for this loon two years in a row. We watched the loons throughout that very harsh winter as they swam among small icebergs and continued to fish for crabs. Based on his behavior, we were sure that Old Grizzly had returned as well. 2016 was a much milder winter

Banded loon, Mrs. Mooselookmeguntic, enjoys a crab dinner.



Photos Courtesy of Kittie Wilson

and that made our work easier. On February 6, 2016, we documented Mrs. Mooselookmeguntic once more, showing site fidelity three years in a row...and, yes, Grizzly was there as well! We are anxious to return to Biddeford Pool in 2017 and beyond to continue documenting the lives of these wintering loons. There is much more to learn about their molting stages, their social behavior, and site fidelity. We can't wait!

~Kittie and John Wilson



Photo Courtesy of Kittie Wilson

Old Grizzly, like Mrs. Mooselookmeguntic, was present all three years of the survey, demonstrating wintering site fidelity to Biddeford Pool, Maine.

Guest writers, Kittie and John Wilson, are long-time LPC members and stalwart volunteers on Pleasant Lake, New London. They are former recipients of the Spirit of the Loon Award (2009 and 2012 respectively) for their unwavering commitment to loon conservation. Their observations of wintering loons in Biddeford Pool, Maine, shed new light on loon behavior beyond the breeding grounds. Kittie's exceptional loon photography is often featured in the LPC Newsletter and other LPC media outlets.

Chocolate anyone?

It's always a good day when someone brings you chocolate! And that's just what happened on July 15, when Sally Cornwell and Jonathan Walpole of Winnepesaukee Chocolates showed up at The Loon Center with their newest chocolate bar—Loon Island. This signature bar honors the loon by blending dark chocolate with pepper and salt—black and white! The beautiful photograph adorning the Loon Island wrapper was taken by LPC member and volunteer, Kittie Wilson. Sally and Jonathan are generously donating \$0.25/Loon Island bar to the Loon Preservation Committee. We are most grateful for their support of New Hampshire's loons!

If you've never treated yourself to a Winnepesaukee Chocolate bar, now's the time to start. Needless to say, we're partial to "Loon Island!"



Did you know there are actually three Loon Islands on Lake Winnepesaukee? We are grateful to Winnepesaukee Chocolates for donating partial proceeds from their newest chocolate bar, Loon Island, to LPC!

Celebrate LOONS this holiday!

Audubon Calling Loon Plush Toy by Wild Republic: Hear the call of the loon "wail" when you squeeze its belly! \$8.95*

Ludwig the Loon by Douglas (pictured): Extra soft and very cuddly! \$11.95*

Loon Hand Puppet by Douglas: Plush loon hand puppet with movable head and wings. 16" from head to foot, 19" wingspan. \$30.95*



These, and MANY more items, are available at The Loon Center gift shop or our on-line store at www.loon.org.

*Plus shipping and handling for on-line/phone purchases.



Tom and Sally Daigneault Honored with 2016 Spirit of The Loon Award

The Spirit of the Loon Award is presented at the Loon Preservation Committee's Annual Meeting to recognize and honor outstanding volunteer service to loons and the Loon Preservation Committee. LPC has over 800 volunteers, and we appreciate every one of them; but two people stood out for us this year because of their own unique contributions, as well as their work to involve others in loon conservation. This year's deserving recipients of the Spirit of the Loon Award are Sally and Tom Daigneault.

Sally and Tom are the owners of Squam Boat Livery in Holderness, New Hampshire, and have been members of the Loon Preservation Committee since 1995. They care deeply about loons and lakes and have shown a great commitment to LPC's work. They were one of the first business owners to write the New Hampshire Legislature in support of initial legislation to restrict the use and sale of lead fishing tackle in 1998. They provided an impor-

tant early voice that helped New Hampshire become the first state in the nation to provide those safeguards for loons and other lake wildlife. They have been loyal sponsors of the *LPC Newsletter* and always have copies on hand at Squam Boat Livery. They have donated kayaks for LPC's yearly raffle and have given LPC steep discounts on boats and motors and the maintenance of same. When those boats and motors have needed repairs or maintenance, they have made sure that LPC is at the front of the line during our busy season (and theirs) to get us back on the water helping loons as quickly as possible. They have even given us unsolicited discounts on boat gas dating back to LPC's days at the Humiston Building in Meredith.

Tom and Sally deeply appreciate and support LPC's grassroots philosophy and have been impor-



tant partners in our efforts to protect and recover loons in New Hampshire. The Loon Preservation Committee and all of us who love wildlife owe them a debt of gratitude for their support of our work, and we are very pleased to name them our Spirit of the Loon Award recipients this year!

~Harry Vogel

LPC Annual Meeting Welcomes New Chair and Trustee

August 24 saw the meeting room at The Loon Center packed with members, volunteers, and other loon lovers. The evening started with the traditional potluck dinner for volunteers, Board, and staff. The food table on the porch was groaning with delectable dishes, and conversation was lively. After the potluck, everyone filed into the meeting room to join many others for the Annual Meeting. Ron Baker, outgoing Chair, called the meeting to order and asked all Board members present to stand. Ron thanked Board, staff and volun-

teers for their hard work throughout the season. The next order of business was to introduce Doug Bechtel, who, as the new President of NH Audubon, will be an Ex-Officio member of the LPC Board. Ron welcomed Doug and noted that LPC is grateful for its continued association with NH Audubon. Robert Rotberg filled in for Governance Committee Chair, Chip Broadhurst, in order to put forth a slate of Trustees to be voted on by the group. Existing Trustee, Sandy Helve, was up for re-election, and Robert introduced new nominee Peace Con-

ant. Peace is a summer resident of Moultonborough, where she and her husband, Gilman, keep close watch on the loons adjacent to Winnepesaukee's Spectacle Island. She has a professional background in marketing for technology companies and has extensive experience with various not-for-profit boards. A motion was made to vote the slate as proposed and was unanimously approved. Retiring Trustee, Bill Crangle, was presented with a lovely framed loon photo to thank him for his ten years of service on LPC's Board and as Chair from

2010 - 2013. He will continue to serve on the Finance and Facilities Committee.

Glyn Green, Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee, reported that in fiscal year 2016 LPC raised approximately \$758k with expenditures of approximately \$697k. Glyn was pleased to note that an overwhelming amount of money spent by LPC is directly related to mission. Audited financials and the 990 tax form are available at www.loon.org.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned. Immediately after the adjournment, Harry Vogel took the opportunity to thank Ron for his three years of leadership as Board Chair, and Ron received a rousing round of applause from the audience. The Annual Meeting was followed by the presentation of the Spirit of the Loon Award, a program of loon photos and videos by John Rockwood, and a State of the Loon report by Harry Vogel.

~Holly Heath

*Over forty years
of working to preserve
loons and their habitats
in New Hampshire*

AmazonSmile

Are you an Amazon shopper? AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support LPC. Just pick the Loon Preservation Committee from Amazon's list of participating non-profits, and they will donate a portion of the purchase price to LPC.



On Saturday, July 2, Ryan Buchanan and family hosted the third annual Save the Loons Fishing Derby on Chocorua Lake, to benefit the Chocorua Lake Conservancy and LPC. Ryan's tournament was a fun gathering and raised hundreds of dollars toward loon conservation and lake stewardship. Hats off to Ryan and his family!

It Takes a Village!

It takes a village to keep up with the rigorous demands at The Loon Center during the busy summer months. We are fortunate to have a small corps of weekly volunteers that helps us keep it all together!

Denise Ferriman became a Loon Center volunteer in November 2015. She resides in the Lakes Region and is an avid gardener and Pickleball player! She has been very helpful in the gift shop, greeting and assisting visitors. Additionally, she has helped at Loon Center events. We look forward to having her at our upcoming Holiday Open House on November 26, as well as back in the gift shop next summer.

Rylan Peter became a youth volunteer this past summer. Hailing from Wayland, MA, she and her family spend their summers along the shores of Lake Winnepesaukee in Moultonborough. Rylan was a huge help at The

Loon Center, enthusiastically helping with everything from pricing merchandise to assisting with mailings and special events. Although she's not yet old enough to drive, she directed traffic at our annual Loon Festival in July! We look forward to her return next summer.

We are always delighted to welcome back Sheila Robusto and Hannah Pinheiro, two seasoned Loon Center volunteers! Sheila, our snowbird, returns to New Hampshire from Florida each spring, while Hannah, another youth volunteer, helps out during her school break. Much like the "Elves and the Shoemaker," Sheila and Hannah quietly go about their business, significantly lightening our load with great care and efficiency!

We always have room for more elves! Please contact Kellee at 603-476-LOON, or kduckworth@loon.org, for more information on volunteer opportunities at The Loon Center.

LOON PRESERVATION COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Protecting New Hampshire's Loons One Event at a Time!

JULY 8: YAKKING FOR LOONS

This was the first year “yakkers” arrived at Lee’s Mill Landing to a light rain. But arrive they did! Fifty paddlers turned out for the 6th annual “Yakking for Loons” kayak-a-thon despite misty skies. Wild Meadow Canoe was on hand again with discounted rentals. Paddlers were escorted by LPC Senior Biologist/Executive Director, Harry Vogel, as well as Lake Winnepesaukee biologist, James Demers, in search of resident loons and other wildlife sightings. A fun time was had by all as they explored the round-trip paddle from Lee’s Mill to Green’s Basin.

This annual event is spearheaded by LPC members, Linda Allen and Joanne Chesley. We are most grateful for their continued support and enthusiasm in building this event from year to year. The event raised \$5,000 in all this year, including registrations, pledges, and Prime Sponsors. Hats off to Curt Chesley who was our top fundraiser again this year!



How many summer field staff can you fit in a dunk tank? That would be seven! Clockwise from top left: Travis Grodkiewicz (Tufts Intern), Ethan Gorman (Sunapee), James Demers (Winnepesaukee), Lindsay Moulton (Lakes Region), Sabrina Tedeschi (Summer Intern), Heather Meader (North Country), and Ellie Daniels (Seacoast).

Many thanks to our Prime Sponsors – Curt’s Caterers and Irving Oil – for their generous and ongoing support. Paddlers were deeply grateful for the delicious lunch awaiting them at the Landing, donated by Curt’s Caterer’s, as well as for the camaraderie awarded by fellow yakkers!

JULY 12: SUNAPEE LOON CRUISE

For a third year, LPC partnered with our friends at Lake Sunapee Protective Association (LSPA) to offer a dinner cruise on Lake Sunapee. On July 12, a total of 27 people were onboard for a lovely evening cruise and buffet dinner on the M/V Sunapee II. Everyone was fortunate to see the loon family feeding. This is the second year that a pair of loons has suc-

essfully bred on the lake in at least our 41-year history! Guests also enjoyed a short talk given by LPC’s Senior Biologist/Executive Director, Harry Vogel, on the upstairs deck. It was a wonderful evening, and we hope to co-host it again in years to come!

JULY 16: LOON FESTIVAL

The Loon Festival was a great success this year! We were especially heartened by the number of young families in attendance – the next generation to carry the torch for loon preservation. The entire LPC staff, loyal volunteers, and our dedicated team of seasonal field biologists rallied to deliver arts and crafts, educational exhibits and slide shows, storytelling, and more. The Meredith Rotary Club graciously donated a BBQ

Thank you
YAKKING
Prime Sponsors!



Curt's
Caterers, LLC





LPC Senior Biologist/Executive Director, Harry Vogel, addresses guests aboard a dinner cruise on the MV Sunapee II.

lunch, and Phil and Jan Sanguadulce of "The Sweetbloods" set a festive mood with acoustic guitar and vocals.

We would like to thank our tireless Loon Festival volunteers: Ron and Nan Baker, Chip Broadhurst, Sally Carver, Bob and Susan Connolly, Bob and Marilyn Coppo, Rylan Peter, Sheila Robusto, Mike Ruyffelaert, John and Sue Scudder, and Eric and Marlene Taussig for their hard work and support!

We can't say enough about our wonderful field biologists, who helped with set up and clean up and entertained the crowd and took their turns in the dunk tank — a fan favorite!

We would also like to thank the Science Center and their volunteers, Liz Hager, Pat James, Nance Ruhm, and Pam Stearns, for supporting the Discovery table and Audrey Eisenhauer for bringing her wonderful live animals (Saw-Whet Owl, Big Brown Bat and Wood Turtle). Our visitors always love to see what animals they bring!

The NH Lakes Association (Andrea LaMoreaux and Megan Hanna) presented their Watershed Warriors program, designed to encourage youth and their families to "take action" to keep lakes and watersheds healthy. A very worthwhile activity that was enjoyed by all!

We can't forget Jo Putnam, who entertained children with her stories; Mo, who made many unusual balloon creations for the kids; Caitlyn Dowell, who painted lots of young faces; CG Roxane and Hannaford for their water donations; and the Meredith Ben & Jerry's for the ice cream. The weather also cooperated, and everyone left happy and informed!

JULY 24: ANNUAL SUMMER LUNCHEON & AUCTION

Well-known Vermont naturalist and author, Mary Holland, was the guest speaker at the 2016 Summer Luncheon and Auction held on July 24 at Church Landing. Mary gave an informative presentation based on her book, *Naturally Curious*, highlighting

natural events that take place throughout the year. She also brought along natural history artifacts for display and a collection of her books for sale.

The Silent Auction was a big success, with over 70 items up for bid. We are deeply grateful to the following individuals and businesses who donated items and services: Andrew's Auto Body and Boat, Art Studio Company, The Badger Company, Bayswater Book Company, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Beach, Wills Begor, Mark and Kristen Begor, Nancy Bernard, David and Mary Blohm, The Bob House & Reel 'N Tavern, Chip and Janine Broadhurst, Butternuts, David and Barbara Calhoun, Cascade Spa at Mill Falls, Bob and Cathy Cassato, Citi Center for the Performing Arts, Clarke's Hardware, The Country Carriage, Bette Cruikshank, Cup and Crumb, Dion's Plant Place, Jean Fiske, Folkmanis Inc., Fratello's Italian Grille, EM Heath, Giuseppe's Pizzeria, Gunstock Mountain Resort, Hart's Turkey Farm Restaurant, Home Comfort Unique Furnishings, Inn at Pleasant Lake, Innisfree Bookshop, Inns at Mill Falls, Jeff Good Landscaping, Joel Tree Farm, Keepsake Quilting, Lemon Grass Restaurant, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Levetin, Lydia's Café, Lyon's Den Restaurant & Tavern, Magic Foods Restaurant Group, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McGinnes, Meadow Pond Animal Hospital, Mill Street Meat Market, Annie Montgomery, New Hampshire Boat Museum, New Hampshire Music Festival, Oglethorpe Fine Arts & Crafts, Pampered Pet B&B, Park Place Salon, Patrick's Pub & Eatery, Pleasant Lake Cheesecake Co., Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Poitras, Tricia Pratt, Prospect Hill Antiques, Dr. and Mrs. Brian Reilly, Mary Rice, Karlene Swartz, Squam Brewing,

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T-Bones and Cactus Jack's, The Green Retriever, The Kalled Gallery, The Old Country Store, Village Kitchen, Walter's Basin, Waukegan Golf Club, Wholly Tara, John and Kittie Wilson, Winni Playhouse, Winnepesaukee Chocolates, and Wolfeboro Trolley Company.

We are also grateful to LPC Chair, Ron Baker, and his lovely wife, Nan, for being our greeters; and to Carl Johnson for his volunteer services.

There wouldn't be a Summer Luncheon and Auction without our wonderful Events Committee, chaired by Liz Gabel and supported by Kristen Begor, Annie Montgomery, and Renee Speltz. The event grossed \$25,000 in support of LPC's work to support loons and their habitats throughout New Hampshire. Bravo!

AUGUST 15: CARL JOHNSON MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 6th Annual Carl Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament was held at Ridgewood Country Club again this year. Senator Johnson was a champion of many worthy causes, including the environment and loons, and an active member of the Loon Preservation Committee Board. We are most grateful to our Prime Tournament Sponsors: Advanced Land Surveying Consultants, Mill Falls at the Lake, Overhead Door Options and Stewart's Ambulance Service.

A scramble format with teams of four and an 8 a.m. shotgun start was followed by lunch and awards at The Overlook Tavern. Finishing in first this year was team Looney Tune, spearheaded by Brad and Nick Leighton of Overhead Door Options. Team Crane (Tom Crane, Chip Broadhurst, Jerry O'Donnell, and Bob Doretti) finished second after a tie breaker with Team Gavia Immer

(Sandy and Louise McGinnes, and Gilman and Peace Conant), finishing third. Colby Lenentine of Team Marinace won this year's putting contest. No one took home the \$10,000 hole-in-one prize this year, courtesy of Paugus Bay Marina. An exclusive raffle was held at the clubhouse sending many golfers home with special loon-themed prizes.

We wish to thank our many loyal hole sponsors who added to the day's success: Advanced Land Surveying Consultants, Chip Broadhurst, DAK Financial Group, Greg Egli, Frog Rock Tavern, Interlakes Builders, Ippolito's Furniture, Irwin Automotive Group, JW Electric, Kevin and Lucy Kelly, Louise and Sandy McGinnes, Marinace Architects, Meadow Pond Animal Hospital, Meredith Rotary, Meredith Village Savings Bank, Mill Falls at the Lake, Moulton Farm, NH Environmental Consultants, the Ohnemus family, Overhead Door Options, RE/MAX Bayside Bayside Rentals, Savings Bank of Walpole, Ambassador Paul and

Renee Speltz, Stewart's Ambulance Service, and Veterans First, as well as our faithful sign sponsor, Whip Saltmarsh of Saltmarsh Insurance.

We are also grateful to Tony Avrutine for running the putting contest, John Moulton of Moulton Farm for the lovely flowers, John and Kittie Wilson for their generous raffle donations, and Bonnie Hunt for nourishing staff and volunteers with her famous blueberry muffins!

Many thanks to ALL who made our busy lineup of summer events a huge success!



LPC and its partners in the Fish Lead Free initiative remind everyone to purchase and use only loon-safe, lead-free sinkers and jigs.

Dine Out and Support LPC – A Win, Win!

Two local restaurants – Lavinia's and The New Woodshed – held fundraising events this past year to support LPC.

Lavinia's Relaxed Dining, located in the historic John Coe Mansion in Center Harbor, holds "Feed a Charity Thursday" in their off season, donating portions of their evening's income to local charities. LPC was the designated charity on February 18! Many LPC Trustees and staff came out for the occasion, as well as members of the public.

On August 14, our new neighbors, The New Woodshed, donated a portion of their evening's sales to support the work of LPC. Located just up the road from The Loon Center, the restaurant is housed in a restored, circa 1820, New England post-and-beam barn. The Haynes Family Foundation generously matched the evening's proceeds.

We are most grateful to Lavinia's and The New Woodshed for their generous support of the Loon Preservation Committee's mission to restore and maintain loons in New Hampshire!

For more information about Lavinia's and The New Woodshed, visit: www.laviniasdining.com and www.newwoodshed.com.

The Swim Celebrates its 10th Anniversary!

On August 11 at 7:00 a.m., a team of eight intrepid swimmers began a length-long swim of Squam Lake, from the Squam Channel in Holderness to the Sandwich Town Beach, to raise funds for LPC's work to bring a healthy population of loons back to Squam. Since 2005, first Wendy Van de Poll and then a team of volunteers known as the Squam Swimmers, have swum the length of the lake ten times to fund and focus attention on LPC's work to safeguard and recover loons on Squam. They have been fantastically effective — "The Swim" has become a much-anticipated event in the Lakes Region and even garnered Wendy a segment on the New Hampshire Chronicle television show this summer to honor its 10th Anniversary! The 2016 Swim team members included Wendy Van de Poll, Richard Chou, Lisa Davy, John Eisner, Rose de Mars, Jen Marts, Rick Van de Poll, and Carol Zink. Van Adriance and Jeff Marts helped spot the Swimmers from their kayaks along the route.

Rockywold-Deephaven Camps once again generously donated the use of its pontoon boat for the day, captained by LPC volunteer and former staff member and

Trustee, Ralph Kirshner. Tiffany Grade, LPC's Squam Lakes Biologist, narrated a special Loon Cruise to mark the occasion of the 10th Anniversary Swim. Special thanks to the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center for donating the Loon Cruise boat and to Dave Martin for captaining it.

The team of tired but jubilant Swimmers came ashore just before noon after a journey of nearly five hours. They were greeted by an enthusiastic crowd of supporters and a well-earned lunch of sandwiches generously donated by the Squam Marketplace, pasta salad donated by the Corner House, and a specially commissioned 10th Anniversary Swim cake donated by E.M. Heath's Market. Special thanks to The

Swim Prime Sponsors: MM Ballroom, Breakaway Athletic Coaching, and Grace Wellness Center!

Donations raised through The Swim help fund LPC's Squam Lake Loon Initiative, an ongoing research effort to address declines and continued poor breeding success of Squam's loons. Wendy's Swim teams have swum a total of 70 miles in their ten trips across the lake and raised a total of \$170,926 to date to fund LPC's increased research, monitoring, management, and outreach to bring loons back to Squam. Thank you to the Swimmers and to all who supported this important work by sponsoring a Swimmer!

~Harry Vogel

Donations raised through The Swim help fund LPC's Squam Lake Loon Initiative, an ongoing research, monitoring, management, and outreach effort to investigate and reverse the decline of loons on Squam Lake.



Photo Courtesy of Kittle Wilson



Congratulations Wendy & Squam Swimmers!

The 2016 Squam Swimmers: Richard Chou, Carol Zink, Rose de Mars, Wendy Van de Poll, Rick Van de Poll, Lisa Davy, John Eisner, and Jen Marts.

Loon Preservation Committee
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*There is a symbolic as well as actual beauty in the
migration of the birds...there is something infinitely
healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance
that dawn comes after night and spring after winter.*

~Rachel Carson

