



# *Loon Preservation Committee* **NEWSLETTER**

*P.O. Box 604, Lee's Mill Road, Moultonborough, NH 03254; [www.loon.org](http://www.loon.org)*

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SUMMER 2017



Photo Courtesy of Kittie Wilson

**The Loon Preservation Committee**  
183 Lee's Mill Road, P.O. Box 604  
Moultonborough, NH 03254  
603-476-LOON (5666); [www.loon.org](http://www.loon.org)

*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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*LPC Senior Biologist/Executive Director*

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

### *Everything Old. . .*

Every year I try to write my summer Director's Message while taking my traditional spring vacation in the interior of Algonquin Park, an area I know and love from past research and many canoe trips over 30(!) years. It is a space of reflective calm far away from telephones, emails, and a hundred other necessary but distracting demands for attention.

I like to imagine, as I sit with my back against a tree and paper on my lap instead of a computer, that I am thinking and writing the way past Loon Preservation Committee directors like Scott Sutcliffe or Jeff Fair might have. My back and arms might be sore from portaging and paddling, but it's an honest soreness, well earned, and the bird songs I hear are from actual birds instead of ringtones.

In that contemplative headspace it is easier to think about the Big Picture – and there is not much bigger than an organization's mission statement (below) when reflecting on big picture items. Over the years since its adoption, lost now in time, LPC's mission statement has proven to be visionary and aspirational. Our "founding fathers" could not have anticipated flame retardant chemicals or avian malaria but they knew something new would always be on the horizon to challenge our loons. The Loon Recovery Plan, the Squam Lake Loon Initiative, our work to restrict the sale and use of lead fishing tackle, and many other projects, initiatives, and collaborations all fit perfectly within that statement of purpose and intent.

We are now embarked on a study of climate change that takes the product of that vision – a 41-year base of data, the longest-running and most comprehensive database on any loon population anywhere – and puts it through its paces. The constancy of LPC's mission has provided the base and the drive for the exciting and necessary work in which we are now engaged. We are still growing into that aspirational statement, and it has focused our work and served us well over the years.

From time to time people have wanted to add to, subtract from, or otherwise tinker with LPC's mission. I'm glad that we as an institution have resisted the urge to change it with the summer or winter winds. Our founding fathers got it right, I think, and it has been a guiding force for this organization since its adoption. The more things change, the more the important things stay the same.



*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.*



## 2017 NELSWG Highlights

On the heels of a major winter storm, the 28th meeting of the Northeast Loon Study Working Group (NELSWG) started under emergency conditions. The Nor'easter "Stella" pounded the Lakes Region on March 14-15, leaving trees down and power out. The following day LPC staff and colleagues, representing five northeastern states and Canada, huddled for the first day of NELSWG at the Moultonborough Safety Department building. Backup generators kept the lights and slide projector running, although without land-line phone or Internet. Power was restored at The Loon Center for the second day of meetings. So, the show went on. Participants were able to take advantage of this annual opportunity to catch up on the latest round of loon conserva-

tion, research, and monitoring projects. The agenda on the first morning was a review of 2016 results from around the region. Loon abundance increased slightly in New York, Vermont, and New Hampshire, in 2016, but was slightly lower in Maine, for both the intensively surveyed study sites monitored by BioDiversity Research Institute (BRI) and the wider loon census conducted by Maine Audubon. Most states reported lower than average nesting success, except for Massachusetts. Differences like these invited a discussion of varying habitat quality, dispersal rates, and population densities among the respective loon populations. Updates from the western United States also informed these comparisons. Vincent Spagnuolo, LPC's Winnepesaukee field biologist in 2010-

2011, summarized results for the Montana and Wyoming populations he helps to monitor. Meanwhile, Dan Poleshook and Ginger Gumm called in from Washington state to describe the 2016 season there. There was even a rumored nesting attempt in Pennsylvania in 2016, the first in modern times. From the North, visiting loon expert Robert Alvo, who has studied loons in Ontario, Canada since the 1980s, provided insight on long-term trends, as well as on other research and conservation topics throughout the 2-day agenda.

NELSWG also offered a chance to compare methods from the 2016 season, for example, clarifying loon bill measurement terminology, streamlining the compilation of mortality data among states, and documenting eagle-

*continued on page 4*



Photo Courtesy of Kitle Wilson

Front: Connor Perry (UNH), Susan Gallo (Maine Audubon), Tiffany Grade (LPC), Brenda Stowe, DVM, Michelle Kneeland, DVM (BRI); Standing: Harry Vogel (LPC), Brian Reilly (LPC Chair), Susie Burbidge (LPC), Danielle D'Auria (ME Inland Fisheries & Wildlife), Linda Egli Johnson (LPC), Lin O'Bara (LPC), Dana Duxbury Fox (LPC Volunteer), Kevin Williams (Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program), Sandi Houghton (NHF&G), Nancy Leland (Lim-Tex), Robert Alvo (Canada); Back row: Vincent Spagnuolo (BRI), Tim Welch (BRI), John Cooley (LPC), Emily Berman (Tufts Veterinary Student), Mark Pokras, DVM (Tufts Veterinary School), Lee Attix (BRI), Sean Flint (USF&WS), Alex Dalton (BRI), Chip Broadhurst (LPC Trustee), Dr. Jim Haney (UNH), Heinrich Wurm (LPC Volunteer), Bob Fox (LPC Volunteer), Jillian Whitney (MA Dept. Conservation & Recreation).

*continued from page 3*

loon interactions consistently across study areas. Loon counting received attention, with Maine Audubon's Susan Gallo presenting her work to estimate detectability rates for volunteer loon census counts (by having volunteers conduct simultaneous surveys) on the same lake, and moving to on-line census reporting. Her results will be useful for both citizen scientists and trained field biologists. Gallo and LPC's Susie Burbidge, as well as Massachusetts's Department of Conservation and Recreation, Jill Whitney, and Tufts Veterinary student, Emily Berman, reviewed the regional "Fish Lead Free!" campaign to promote safe fishing tackle use, and a project in MA to install lake-side receptacles for spent fishing line and tackle.

Finally, NELSWG included updates from the latest round of loon research. Dr. James Haney (UNH) and student Connor Perry described their testing of loon blood and feather samples to evaluate the bioaccumulation and biomagnification of neurotoxins produced by lake algae. Although these toxins are present in NH loons, some of the highest levels were recorded from samples taken in the Western states. UNH collaborator Nancy Leland (Lim-Tex) presented her refined field technique for estimating cya-



Photo Courtesy of Kittie Wilson

*Kevin Williams (Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program), John Cooley (Loon Preservation Committee), Tim Welch (Biodiversity Research Institute), and Susan Gallo (Maine Audubon) talk shop during a coffee break at a meeting of the Northeast Loon Study Working Group at The Loon Center.*

notoxin exposure in lakes, differentiating between the blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) that form blooms, and the smaller algae species, which actually mobilize more toxins into the food web than their bloom-forming counterparts. This gives a more accurate ecological context for the hazard cyanotoxins may pose to loons. Research on other stressors is also moving forward: LPC's Tiffany Grade summarized contaminant testing of sediments in Squam Lake tributaries that point more closely to the origin of some of

the contaminants detected in loon eggs on the lake, and her work with NH Department of Environmental Services to investigate those sources. Recent progress on LPC's analysis of the influence of weather and climate on loon nesting success was also covered at NELSWG. These research summaries demonstrated the potential for synergy when research questions, data sharing, or analytic methods from one project boost the pace of progress across the board.

*~John H. Cooley*



Photo Courtesy of Kittie Wilson

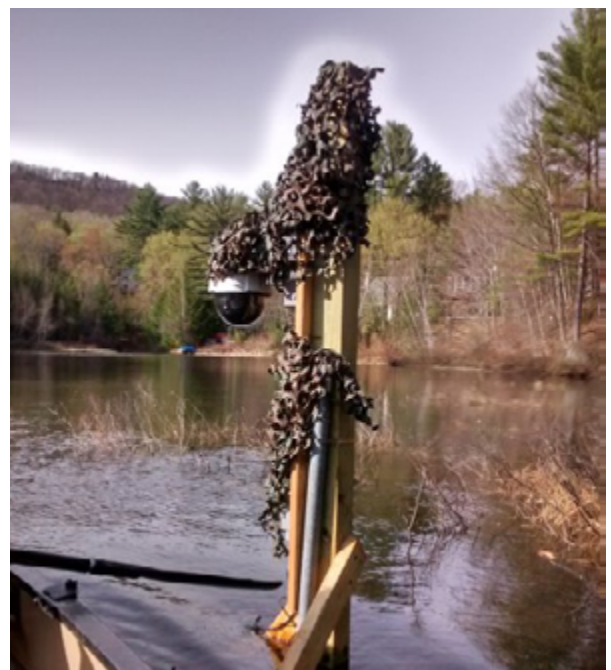




*This series of photographs (above) by Wildlife Photographer and LPC Volunteer, Libby Corbin, demonstrates the magnitude of disturbance by black flies on nesting loons in late spring. This bird took a break from turning and incubating its eggs to find some relief in the water. Loons have their own species of black fly, *Simulium annulus*, that, thankfully, don't bother people!*



*LPC's webcam expert, Bill Gassman, has outdone himself this year! He advised LPC on the purchase of a much upgraded video camera, helped install said camera, and proved himself the equal of all manner of mechanical, streaming, and other technical issues to bring loon watchers a greatly improved experience of a loon on the nest. He has been a virtual full-time staff member at LPC since the webcam effort began this year – except that we have not paid him. All of his work has been done as a volunteer. And that very considerable effort has paid off: at press time the Loon Webcam has brought an intimate look at a nesting loon pair, complete with commentary by Bill and LPC staff, to loon watchers in all 50 states and over 140 countries!*





## *What a soap opera! Banding and the secret lives of loons.*

Here's a story worthy of a soap opera, with just a few tweaks to make it fit humans: an unbanded male loon attacks another male sick with lead poisoning, kills his chick, and takes over the territory, Great Island on Squam Lake. The victorious male presumably returns the next year as the owner of Great Island, has two chicks, and LPC biologists are able to band him with a unique combination of color bands, so we can always identify him in the future. We band this male with the color combination of blue over blue on his left leg and red stripe over silver on his right leg, so I'll call him "Blue/blue." Sadly, one of Blue/blue's chicks succumbs to starvation, likely exacerbated by disturbance from kayakers, and the second chick dies of unknown causes. The following summer, Blue/blue's mate spends 3 days sitting on a raft without producing an egg, and he decides it is time for a new territory. Blue/blue goes to a neighboring territory, Heron Cove, for a takeover: He kills the two chicks there and spends 3 days fighting with the other male loon. Blue/blue loses in the end; but, by that time, another male has moved into Great Island. He gambled on a new territory but lost all. He spent the next 2.5 years as a single loon without a territory, floating around the lake, picking the occasional fight to get a territory, but essentially down and out on his luck.

The years pass...and he finally gets a territory, Moon Island! But Blue/blue still really wants Heron Cove. His old rival hasn't returned yet, so he boots out the unbanded male there at the time and finally has the territory he has always coveted...for about a

week. Then his nemesis returns, boots him out yet again, and Blue/blue settles for Moon Island – the territory he had just gained but apparently really didn't want.

Finally, there is a chance at redemption. Last summer, Blue/blue and his mate nested; but, within days of laying an egg, the female was evicted from her territory. Rather than abandoning the egg as would normally happen, Blue/blue stuck with it, incubating the egg from the previous female despite his new mate's efforts to lure him off the nest. Finally, she gave up and laid her own egg in the nest, leading to the unusual situation of a clutch of two eggs from two different females. Sadly, neither egg hatched, but it wasn't for lack of trying from dedicated Blue/blue, apparently trying for a life of respectable domesticity rather than picking fights with the neighbors. Will this new life of settled respectability last? Stay tuned for the next episode of "As Squam Turns" to find out...

Such is the soap opera revealed in LPC's banding efforts on Squam Lake. While other versions of this drama play out across New Hampshire, intensive banding and monitoring of these banded loons on Squam have revealed the extent of these dramas



*LPC Field Program Coordinator, Caroline Hughes, makes final adjustments to bands on a loon chick during a night of banding in the Sunapee Region.*

Photo Courtesy of Kitle Wilson

on a lake that has experienced considerable upheaval in loon social structure following high rates of adult mortality, which has likely been a contributing factor to the protracted poor breeding success of Squam's loons. As we seek to understand and reverse these declines, we have found that Squam is a perfect laboratory for loon research: a large enough lake to have a substantial loon population but not so large as to make it unmanageable for intensive monitoring and research. In short, it's a Goldilocks lake: not too small, not too large, just right. In 2016, 19 of Squam's 30 paired loons were banded, plus 5 of its unpaired loons. Such a high proportion of banded loons allows for close monitoring of the effects of territorial fidelity (or lack thereof) on breeding success and a close look at individual survival, breeding success, health, and contaminant levels. All of this contributes to a better understanding of the difficulties faced by Squam's loons and the reasons for them.

While Squam is the perfect laboratory for intensive monitoring of a loon population on a given lake, banding throughout New Hampshire has made an important contribution to the understanding of loon life history. We often get asked, how long do loons live? We don't really know, but our 30-year banding dataset can begin to answer that question. Our information to date suggests loons live between 20-30 years. But we have only been banding for 30 years, and we may find loons live even longer than we think they do. Right now, the oldest banded loon in New Hampshire is the female at Sweat's Meadow at Lake Umbagog, who was banded as an adult in 1993. She was probably at least 6 years old when she was first captured along with her chicks, as banding has also revealed loons begin nesting on average when they are around 6 years of age, so she

could well be around the 30-year-old mark. A known 30-year-old loon, banded as a chick in Michigan in 1987, has returned to its territory this year and is the oldest known-age loon. In addition, New Hampshire banding data was used in a seminal study estimating adult common loon survival rates at 92% (Mitro et al. 2008), a high rate of survival characteristic of long-lived species like loons. This information has proved fundamental for our understanding of the needs of loons, the importance of adult survival, and its implications for the severe impacts of human-caused mortality on loons, such as deaths from lead fishing tackle.

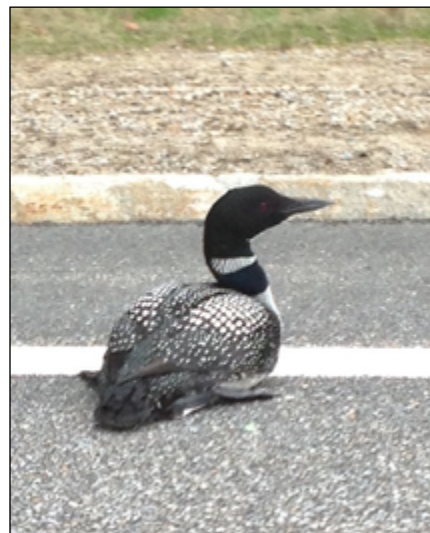
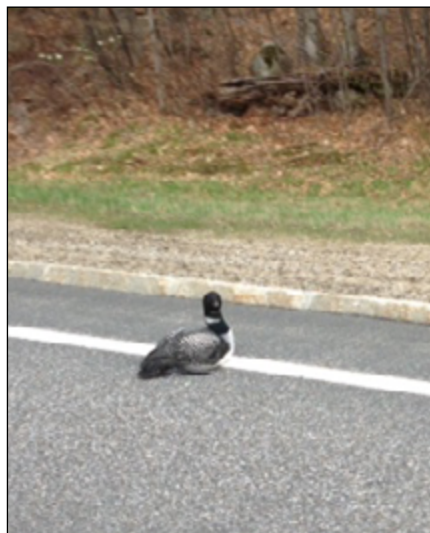
Thanks to banding, we have learned much about loons and what we need to do to protect them. We learn about adult survival, territory fidelity, individual productivity, health and contaminant levels, and how a loon's

overall health and contaminant levels relate to its breeding success and survival. While we wish we did not have to capture them for banding, the information we gain helps us better understand how to preserve them and recover the population in the state. And while the conflicts and territorial swapping revealed through banding have been critical to helping us understand the dynamics and implications of a disrupted social structure on Squam, a side benefit is a revealing look at the secret lives of loons and just how soap opera-ish a loon's life can be!

~Tiffany Grade

*Reference: Mitro, M. G., D. C. Evers, M. W. Meyer, and W. H. Piper. 2008. Common loon survival rates and mercury in New England and Wisconsin. Journal of Wildlife Management 72:665-673.*

## *Why did the loon cross the road?*



*It must have been alarming for motorists on I-93, just south of Franconia Notch, to witness a loon on the highway. Jim Kegley of Hudson, and George and Sandy Frost of Meredith, were quick to respond by calling local authorities and 911 respectively. Jim Kegley stayed with the loon until Lincoln police arrived. The loon was eventually released at a nearby waterbody. We don't know exactly how this loon ended up where it did, but it likely mistook a wet highway for water. We do know it is one lucky bird thanks to Jim, George and Sandy, and the Lincoln PD. Thanks to all involved for their quick action and for making this a happy ending!*



*This story was left behind by a young visitor to The Loon Center back in July, 2014. One can't help but admire the imagination and wonderment of this budding writer!*

## LOONS

by Jamie Rick-Segrini

**T**here was a loon on Magic Lake. It was a very sad loon. It was sad because it was lonely. The loon wanted a friend. One day the loon heard a noise. The noise got closer. The sad loon was curious. She followed the noise to a rock, a BIG rock. In fact, that was how the lake got its name. The rock was 100 feet long, 100 feet wide, and only 3 feet high. The loon hopped on the giant rock...and something magical happened. The loon looked down at her feathers and she was not black and white anymore. She was filled with color! She loved her new look! The next day there was not one, not three, but ten loons were at the lake, just to see the not so lonely loon. She was so happy! In the next 28 days there was a new loon in town. It even had color too! And all the loons lived happily ever after.

## THE END

Postscript: Always remember that different is what makes the world go around. ~Jamie



*Many hands make light work! That was certainly the case at LPC's annual spring workday in mid-April. The volunteer workforce, under the supervision of LPC's John Cooley and Caroline Hughes, saw the completion of five new nest rafts and four floating signs! Hats off to this intrepid crew who braved the rain and bugs to undertake these projects! Pictured: Terri Lynch, Maria Morales, Bud Lynch, Miguel Morales, Chip Broadhurst (LPC Trustee), John Cooley (LPC), Ed Stephenson, Dave Snyder, Warren Fleck, and Caroline Hughes (LPC).*



**L**PC's Summer Field Biologists are busy monitoring lakes and ponds throughout the state. Rafts, signs and ropelines are being deployed to keep nesting loons safe. And our live web-cam is giving the world (literally) a front row seat to a pair of nesting loons in the Lakes Region. All of these efforts are made possible by LPC's Loon Recovery Plan. If you wish to contribute to the Loon Recovery Plan in support of our intensive loon monitoring, research, management, and education, please contact Harry Vogel at 603-476-5666, or [hvogel@loon.org](mailto:hvogel@loon.org).



## *The Next Generation of Loon Protectors*

**I**t is heartening when a 13-year old takes a personal interest in helping loons! That's just the case with Ani Martin, a homeschooled Girl Scout on Little Island Pond, who chose loons as the subject of her scouting project. LPC Senior Biologist, John Cooley, readily agreed to be the project advisor for her Girl Scout Silver Award.

Ani attends Camp Runels, a summer Girl Scout camp on her pond. Last summer she kayaked from home on her first day of camp! She had the opportunity to visit The Loon Center recently to understand the work of LPC in protecting New Hampshire's loons. She is already scheduled to speak to the Little Island Pond Association about her loon project, and has reached out to neighboring summer camps as well.

The Little Island Pond loons have the distinction of being the most southern nesting pair in the



Photo courtesy of Karyn Martin.

*Ani Martin paddles away after placing a protective sign on Little Island Pond.*

state. They were quick to get on the nest this year and hatched one chick on June 7th, one of the earliest in the state. We are most grateful to Ani for floating protective signs and putting up educational posters around the Pond.

We wish her much success on her Girl Scout Silver Award and look forward to a recap of her project in the fall!

*~Linda Egli Johnson*

## *A Lighter Mix of Winter Rescues in 2016-2017*

**L**ast December and January proved to be a more typical winter ice-up and loon rescue season than the year before. LPC staff and volunteers worked with the New London fire department to attempt a rescue on Sunapee Lake, and also rescued a juvenile loon on Partridge Lake in Littleton. Ice rescue training, and practice using a tarp last winter to bring the loon within reach, both came in handy this season. Finally, Do-It-Yourself rescue succeeded in getting a stranded juvenile loon (pictured) to the ocean, when Ossipee resident Kaitlyn Gallup found the loon trapped in snow and ice on a road shoulder. She thawed the loon's feet to free it, and waited several hours with

the loon until NH Fish and Game staff, and then LPC Senior Biologist/Executive Director, Harry Vogel, could relay the loon to Avian Haven in Freedom, Maine. Thanks go out to veterinarians

and rehabilitation centers like Avian Haven who have been ready to receive rescued loons at any hour, or day, or month!

*~John H. Cooley*



Photo courtesy of Terry Heitz/Avian Haven.

# 2017 LPC SUMMER FIELD STAFF

## LAKES REGION



LINDSAY MOULTON

Lindsay returns to LPC after a fall and winter that included work at Carter Hill Orchard outside Concord, and at an after-school youth program. She's excited to renew her acquaintance with the back roads of the NH Lakes Region, and with loons and volunteers on over 50 lakes! She is quick to offer a helping hand around The Loon Center!

## SEACOAST



JESSE CARLSON

Jesse recently earned a BS in Environmental Science & Policy from Plymouth State University. He has worked as a lab and field technician at the Jackson Estuarine Laboratory, conducting water, sediment and fish sampling on Great Bay. He has a keen interest in birds and looks forward to expanding his skills at LPC!

## MONADNOCK



EMILY GROSS

Hailing from Indiana, Emily graduated from Hanover College in 2016 with a major in Biology and minors in both Sociology and Environmental Science. She has conducted work ranging from raptor rescue and rehabilitation to working on a sustainable pig farm. She loves to travel and just got back from Kenya about one month ago!

## SUNAPEE



SARAH CANTWELL

Sarah is enrolled as a Wildlife Biology major at the University of New Hampshire/Durham. She was the first High School student appointed to the Town of Farmington Conservation Commission. She has worked as a Wildlife Educator for Wildlife Encounters since 2014, and is looking to broaden her species list studying loons this summer.

## NORTH COUNTRY



EMILY LANDRY

Emily is pursuing a BS in Wildlife and Conservation Biology from the University of New Hampshire/Berlin. An avid paddler, she is familiar with loons from exploring and fishing many of the remote lakes in Coos County. Research experience includes tracking moose using radio telemetry in New Hampshire's Great North Woods!

## WINNIPESAUKEE



JAMES DEMERS

James is returning for a second season on Lake Winnepesaukee, after graduating in May from the University of Delaware with a degree in Marine Biology. He managed to squeeze in a cycling class with his senior science credits this spring. (Way to go James!) Along with Lindsay, he is willing to lend a hand at The Loon Center as needed!

## SUMMER INTERN



ISABEL BRINTNALL

Isabel returns to LPC for a fourth summer, monitoring and studying loons on lakes near Concord. She just finished her Master's thesis at Antioch New England last fall, titled "The impact of recreational boating on Common Loons breeding on eight New Hampshire lakes." Thank you for choosing this topic, Isabel, and congratulations!

## SUMMER INTERN



MADELINE MISHAEL

A graduate of Tufts University with a degree in English and International Literary and Visual Studies, Maddy discovered LPC through Dr. Mark Pokras' research and has set her sights on a PhD in Wildlife Biology. She will serve as an "intern-at-large" at LPC during May and June, filling in the much-needed gaps of a busy field season.

The SQUAM LAKE territory is monitored by Tiffany Grade, LPC's full-time Squam Lake Project Biologist.



## 2017 Veterinary Interns:

This summer, LPC will host not one, but two Tufts University veterinary interns, supporting loon health, mortality, and banding research. Katelyn Durbin is a dual veterinary student and Master's candidate in public health, bringing her interest in the environmental factors influencing both human and wildlife health to loon studies. Our second intern, Estefania Parra Ochoa, is a current Master's student in the Tufts Conservation Medicine program, and a trained veterinarian from Colombia, whose research there has included work with air pollution, eared doves (*Zenaida auriculata*), and primates. We look forward to both Katelyn and Estefania's expert help this summer and the continued collaboration with Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine.

## FIELD NOTES

**See a Loon in Trouble?**  
Please call 603-476-5666  
[www.loon.org](http://www.loon.org)



For help after hours please call  
NH Fish & Game  
603-271-3361

"See a Loon in Trouble" magnets were made possible through donations to the Loon Recovery Plan. Magnets are available at The Loon Center. Place on your fridge or in your boat and be ready to help a loon in trouble!




**ANNUAL LOON CENSUS**  
SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2017  
8AM - 9AM



**CENSUS FORM ENCLOSED**  
(SEE PAGE 23)



The "Fish Lead Free!" campaign to promote safe fishing tackle use was among the topics discussed at the Northeast Loon Study Working Group (NELSWG) March 14-15 (see pages 3-4).



Pick the Loon Preservation Committee from Amazon's list of participating charities and they will donate a portion of the purchase price to LPC!

### *A Number Crunching Collaboration with Eric Laflamme of Plymouth State University*

The Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) first approached Dr. Eric Laflamme, an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Plymouth State University, to advise and guide our research on the effects of lead fishing tackle on New Hampshire's loon population. Lead tackle remains a primary concern to LPC because of the disproportionately large effect that this source of mortality has on New Hampshire's loons. Although it is now illegal to use or sell lead sinkers and lead-headed fishing jigs weighing an ounce or less, lead still resides in many old tackle boxes in dusty corners of garages throughout the state. The two loon deaths attributed to lead tackle already recorded this year suggest that lead will be a source of mortality for loons for years to come.

Dr. Laflamme worked with LPC staff to explore various analyses and perform multiple iterations of those analyses as we refined our study to answer questions raised by the data, LPC biologists, and our peers. He was an invaluable member of our research team, and his contributions allowed us to definitively address the population-level impacts of this important stressor for New Hampshire loons. He is a co-author on a paper, now submitted to a peer-reviewed journal, that we feel will make an important contribution to loon conservation and population ecology.

Little did we know when we chanced upon Dr. Laflamme that his areas of expertise were uniquely suited to one of LPC's next major research questions as we work to identify issues potentially affecting loons – the impacts

on nesting loons of increasing temperatures and rainfall associated with climate change. After gaining his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of New Hampshire in 2013, Dr. Laflamme worked extensively in adapting regional climate models to predict local impacts, including future precipitation extremes. He has also worked with time-series data – a challenging area of statistics that tracks things that change over time, such as traffic congestion at different times of day, or loon

breeding success from year to year. We could hardly have found a better talent to help us assess breeding success over a variety of hot, cold, wet, and dry summers over the past 40 years!

Dr. Laflamme is currently working closely with LPC staff to integrate local climate and long-term loon datasets to analyze the impacts of our changing climate on loon nesting and the vulnerability of loons to climate change. This study draws on over 500,000 daily weather records from more than 100 weather stations throughout the state to compare that data with the fates of over 5,400 loon nests over the years. The project takes advantage of Dr. Laflamme's work with local climate data and climate projections in New Hampshire, and builds on his demonstrated interest in applying analytic techniques to loon research and conservation. Dr. Laflamme is an essential partner in this research, and an engaged



*Eric Laflamme holds a loon chick during a night of banding on Squam Lake.*

and enthusiastic participant in exploring the data and shaping the analyses. His efforts have supported big strides forward in LPC's scientific investigations.

Our partnership with Dr. Laflamme is an outstanding example of LPC's success in expanding its professional collaborations to augment the skill set of LPC staff in areas where it is impractical to bring that skill set directly to LPC (e.g. statistical analyses, contaminants testing, necropsies, and wildlife rehabilitation). We have been searching for someone with his mix of skills and interests, and are thankful to have found such a willing partner to help us research factors affecting New Hampshire's loon population. We look forward to an extended and productive collaboration as we investigate other threats to loons in New Hampshire.

*~Harry Vogel*



## LOON PRESERVATION COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

### *Tales of Loons and Bears at Annual Luncheon & Auction*

**I**t was a happy reunion at the Annual Luncheon & Auction as LPC welcomed back former Director Jeff Fair (1981 - 1991). A capacity crowd gathered at Bald Peak Colony Club, where members and loon enthusiasts enjoyed cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, and a delectable lunch. The event concluded with a presentation by Jeff entitled "Tales of Loons and Bears."

A freelance field biologist and author, Jeff has called Alaska home since 1995. He is the author of the recently published "In Wild Trust," and gave a spirited slide show on the Brown Bears of Alaska's McNeil River, as well as New Hampshire's loons. Copies of his book were on hand for sale and signing (see page 18). We can't thank Jeff enough for fitting us into his busy schedule before flying off to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta in southwestern Alaska to "chase" Emperor Geese!

It is quite a feat to organize an event of this size and we couldn't have done it without the help of our wonderful Events Committee and volunteers. Peace Conant designed the attractive luncheon invitation and served as our liaison with Bald Peak, overseeing facility logistics and the menu.



*A lemon tart with black raspberry ice cream, whipped cream, and a loon cookie was almost too pretty to eat!*



Photo Courtesy of Kirtie Wilson

*Former LPC Director, Jeff Fair, narrates a slide presentation on the Loons of New Hampshire and the Brown Bears of Alaska's McNeil River at the Annual Summer Luncheon & Auction at Bald Peak Colony Club.*

She also created the beautiful centerpieces that adorned the dining-room tables. Kristen Begor, Shirley Green, Annie Montgomery, and Deb Poitras worked hard to secure a unique collection of silent auction items. Kristen and Annie also spearheaded the "Wishing Tree" which secured kayaks, raft covers, utility shelving, gas cards, fire extinguishers, nest battery cameras, ratchet straps, general field supplies, and the cost of a loon blood panel. Many thanks to the Events Committee for their tireless effort!

The staff at Bald Peak Colony Club could not have been nicer or more accommodating, and guests were treated to a spectacular birds-eye view of Lake Winnepesaukee from the patio. We are deeply grateful to the Club for creating such a warm and wel-

coming experience for our guests!

We owe a debt of gratitude to the many individuals and businesses who generously donated to the silent auction. They include: Anonymous, Badger Company, Marc Bard, Tom and Suzy Beach, Mark and Kristen Begor, Wills Begor, BlohmPhoto, Boston Red Sox, Lizi Boyd, Bridgman's Furniture, Chip Broadhurst, Katy Burns, Burt's Bees, Butternuts, Dave and Barbara Calhoun, Clarke's Hardware of New London, Common Man, Cup and Crumb, The Edge, Fratello's, Harrington Jewelers of Newport, Karel Hayes, Heath's Hardware, Sandy Helve, Inn at Pleasant Lake, Jeff Good Landscaping, The Kalled Gallery, King Arthur Flour, Lady P's, Lavinia's, Lemon Grass Restaurant, Janet Levetin, Lively Designs Picture

*continued on page 18*

## Thank you to our donors: April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017 (\$100 and above)

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 Sand Pond Association  
 Mr. and Mrs. Larry Sands  
 Joyce Saturley  
 Savings Bank of Walpole  
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Schaalman  
 Ms. Donna Schmalberger  
 Jean Schmucker  
 Mr. Merle Schotanus  
 Ms. Lynda Schreijack-Rapp  
 Karlene Schwartz  
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Seabury  
 Mr. David Sears  
 Ms. Olivia Sears  
 Mr. Rob Sedgwick  
 Seven C's Inc.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Shannon  
 Mr. and Mrs. Mike Shearin

Mr. and Mrs. John Sherman  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shirey  
 Ms. Suzan Sigmond  
 Peter Simkin  
 Henry Simonds  
 Ms. Ingrid Skadberg  
 Mary Skelton  
 Polly Slavet  
 Mrs. Susan Small  
 Dr. and Mrs. Robert Smith  
 Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Smith  
 Mr. and Mrs. Shaw Smith  
 Ms. Sherrie Smith  
 Betsy Snider  
 Mrs. Priscilla Sorlien  
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 E. Clinton Swift  
 Mr. and Mrs. Murray Swindell  
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 The Kalled Gallery  
 Mr. and Mrs. Carl Thieme  
 Mrs. Barbara Thomas  
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thorndike  
 Three Ponds Protective Association  
 Allen Torrey  
 Mr. and Mrs. William Trakat  
 Philip Trasatti  
 Dr. and Mrs. Robert Trautwein  
 Mr. Michael Travis  
 Robert Turnan  
 Mr. and Mrs. Roger Uhler

Lori Van Dam  
 Reverend Jane Van Zandt  
 Mr. and Mrs. Gene Venable  
 Veterans First  
 Village Kitchen  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Volpe  
 Ms. Frances Von Mertens  
 Donna Wagner  
 Charles Walcott  
 Ann Walker  
 Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wallitsch  
 Ms. Lisa Wardlaw  
 Mr. and Mrs. Kent Warner  
 Mr. and Mrs. John Warren  
 Mr. and Mrs. Renny Warren  
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 Protective Association  
 Waukewan Golf Course  
 Ms. Alice Waylett  
 Mr. Michael Webster  
 Norman Weeks  
 Mr. Stephen Weld  
 Mr. and Mrs. D. Wetherell  
 Ms. Ann Whalen  
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark Whary  
 Karen Wheeler  
 Mr. and Mrs. Steve White  
 Ms. Wendy White  
 White Oak Pond Watershed  
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 Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wilson  
 Susan Wing  
 Ms. Diane Winn  
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 Mr. Charles Woodard  
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 Mr. and Mrs. Mark Woodin  
 Woodlands Shores  
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 Dr. Carey York-Best  
 Brian and Anne Young  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Zeloski  
 Mr. and Mrs. John Zenker  
 Peter and Jo Ziesing  
 Mrs. Sinclair Ziesing



## LPC Annual Meeting August 24, 2017

### The Loon Center

5:30 pm	Potluck Dinner
7:00 pm	Annual Meeting
7:30 pm	End of Season Loon Report

*continued from page 13*

Framing, Liz Hause Interior Design, Kevin Martin, Sandy and Louise McGinnes, Annie Montgomery, NH Boat Museum, NH Orthopaedic Center, The Old Country Store, Andy Opel, Pleasant Lake Cheesecake Company, Kevin and Debbie Poitras, Cate Poole, Tricia Pratt, Prospect Hill Antiques, Scott and Jennifer Reed, Brian Reilly, Joseph Reilly, Seven Suns Creperie, Squam Brewing, Stellaloon, TBones/Cactus Jack's, Eric and Marlene Taussig, Village Kitchen, Walter's Basin, Waukegan Golf Club, Wayfarer Coffee Roasters, Wholly Tara, John and Kittie Wilson, Winnipegauke Chocolates, and the Woodshed Roasting Company. Please remember their generosity on behalf of New Hampshire's loons and give back when and where you can!

*~Linda Egli Johnson*



*A packed house listens to former LPC Director, Jeff Fair, speak at the Annual Luncheon & Auction held at Bald Peak Colony Club.*

*"When we try to pick out anything by itself,  
we find it attached to everything  
else in the universe."*

*~John Muir*



## In Wild Trust

by Jeff Fair

188 p., 125 color plates, 7 x 10; Price: \$32.95 plus s&h

Former LPC Director, Jeff Fair, was personally invited by Larry Aumiller to write this book chronicling Aumiller's thirty years among the McNeil River Brown Bears. A 23-year Alaskan, Fair works as a freelance writer and independent wildlife biologist based in Palmer, Alaska.

*Visit The Loon Center or call 603-476-5666 to purchase your SIGNED copy today!*

For thirty years, Larry Aumiller lived in close company with the world's largest grouping of brown bears, returning by seaplane every spring to the wilderness side of Cook Inlet, two hundred and fifty miles southwest of Anchorage; to work as a manager, teacher, guide, and more. Eventually—without the benefit of formal training in wildlife management or ecology—he became one of the world's leading experts on brown bears, the product of an unprecedented experiment in peaceful coexistence.

This book celebrates Aumiller's achievement, telling the story of his decades with the bears alongside his own remarkable photographs. As both professional wildlife managers and ordinary citizens alike continue to struggle to bridge the gap between humans and the wild creatures we've driven out, In Wild Trust is an inspiring account of what we can achieve.

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA PRESS | FAIRBANKS



## *Birdathon/Bloomathon Tallied 108 Birds and 60 Blooms!*

You are excited, like we are, about the return of flowers and birds in the fields, woods, and waters. You are cheerleaders of spring! We, the Tamworth Area Birdathon/Bloomathon (B/B) team are once again buoyed by your support, and excited to share with you this report.

The 2017 B/B team included Ned Beecher, Chris Clyne, John Cooley, Gary Gaschott, Lucy Gatchell, Tiffany Grade, Dexter Harding, Jane Rice, Bob Ridgely, and Tony Vazzano. This year's B/B Day – May 16th – was sunny and warmish. But it followed a cool spring and a long weekend of cold rain. Avian migration and blossom development were suspended at an earlier stage than most years, as indicated by low numbers of black flies. Consequently, most of the flycatchers, some warblers, and Red-eyed Vireo had not yet returned to Tamworth and contiguous towns. (They arrived the following few days.) Pink Lady's Slipper, a reliable bloom most years, was not yet showing color, and Bunchberry was far from flowering. The number of species we counted was relatively low: 60 blooms and 108 birds.

A few sightings may have been helped by the earliness of the season. Bob had an Evening Grosbeak. Juncos and a White-Crowned Sparrow had not yet wandered farther north. And getting two species of yellow violet was unusual.

Besides the timing of the B/B day, we noted other changes this year. Some of the less common flowers are scattered around the region in special spots, some roadside, which were disturbed by the long, snowy winter and associated plowing. The Fringed

Polygala at Meader Road seems to be gone. And ongoing development is altering habitat in the Pine Barrens of eastern Tamworth, leaving less space for the Field Sparrow (but we still had one there!).

Among the favorite bird sightings of the day were:

- Lucy: a Bald Eagle, chased by a crow, swooping over the car as we drove along Route 113 near the Tamworth Post Office.
- Tiffany: 2 Buffleheads in Squaw Cove on Squam and a Yellow-throated Vireo.
- Tony: his first 3 birds were 3 Barred Owls; then he found elusive species you have to know where to look for, including Red-bellied Woodpecker (in his Diamond Ledge Road, Sandwich neighborhood) and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (at Chick's Corner).

- Chris: the team's one Turkey.
- Ned: an American Woodcock in the pre-dawn along Fowler's Mill Road.
- Bob: the Greater Yellowlegs and 2 sandpipers – getting shorebirds is always a challenge! Plus the Northern Rough-winged Swallow in Tamworth Village.
- Jane: a Red-tailed Hawk and, at the very end of the day, when we were scrambling for a few more species – Chimney Swifts in Moultonboro Village.

Through another B/B, you and we have cheered the return of spring once more. Think of the wonders it entails: the unlikely entrance of the 3-gram Ruby-throated Hummingbird in your flower patch. And, from the wet decay of forest floor, there it is remarkably: the sharp white-pink Painted Trillium!

~Ned Beecher



*A pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers.*

*The Birdathon/Bloomathon is a volunteer fundraising event hosted by the Lakes Region Chapter of New Hampshire Audubon. The objective is to count as many birds and blooms as possible in a 24-hour period during the peak of songbird migration and spring blooms. Bird and bloom teams solicit per species sponsors and outright donations to help raise money for the Chapter and for the Loon Preservation Committee. The Chapter has held their meetings at The Loon Center since its dedication in 1994, and members of LPC are also active Lakes Region Chapter members.*

# LPC Annual Benefit Raffle

Enter to win one of the three amazing prizes pictured below. Tickets can be purchased at The Loon Center or by calling 603-476-5666. All proceeds benefit NH's loons!



## Stained Glass Loon:

A single loon glides peacefully on a crystal blue lake with lush mountains in the background. This stunning, original art glass was hand crafted by Bonilynn McRobbie using the copper foil method. 24" X 15 1/2"

## Old Town, Heron 9XT Kayak: Donated by Irwin Marine

This recreational kayak is 9'6" long, 28.5" wide, and weighs 39 pounds. Comfort Flex seating, Support Track foot brace system, and Click Seat hatch add to its comfort. Color: Cloud



**\$5.00 each or  
3/\$10.00**



## Loon Wall Hanging:

Donated by Winnie O'Shaughnessy

An original design, "Loon Nouveau" depicts a loon at sunrise. Beautiful shades of blue and green water are contrasted with pale pink and orange sky. A classic summer dawn in lake country! 27" X 22"



## SUMMER BULLETIN BOARD

**Summer Nature Talk Series:** Thursday Evenings at 7:30 pm, July 6 - August 24; FREE

**Yakking for Loons:** Friday, July 7; 8am - 12pm; \$12 registration fee

A fun-filled morning of kayaking on Lake Winnepesaukee while observing resident loons. Pre-registration is required and includes a box lunch. Sponsored by Curt's Caterers and Irving Oil.

**Loon Festival:** Saturday, July 15; 10am - 2pm; FREE

Come by The Loon Center for loon-themed arts & crafts, face painting, balloon sculptures by Mo, educational loon slide shows, live animals and exhibits, music, refreshments & more!

**The SWIM:** Thursday, August 3; donations welcomed

Led by Wendy Van de Poll, The SWIM proceeds support research and management on Squam Lake. Donate on-line at [www.loon.org](http://www.loon.org) or send a check to LPC. Join the swimmers for a post-SWIM celebration at the Sandwich Town Beach on Bean Road at 11:30(ish).

**Carl Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament:** Monday, August 14; 7am-2pm; \$100 per golfer

A fun morning of golf at Ridgewood Country Club. \$10,000 hole-in-one grand prize along with raffle and other prizes! Breakfast and lunch included. Pre-register by August 7.

**LPC Annual Meeting:** Thursday, August 24; 7 pm

You are also welcome to attend the volunteer potluck dinner at 5:30 pm and/or the end-of-season loon report immediately following the Annual Meeting (see page 22). Contact [volunteers@loon.org](mailto:volunteers@loon.org).



# LOON FESTIVAL!

Saturday, July 15, 2017  
at

The Loon Center

10am - 2pm

- ★Dunk Tank, Face Painting
- ★Live Animals & Exhibits
- ★Slide Presentations on Loons
- ★Children's Crafts & Activities
- ★Balloon Sculptures by Mo
- ★Music, Refreshments & MORE!!!



**Special sales in the Loon's Feather Gift Shop!**

# Summer 2017 Nature Talk Series

at The Loon Center  
183 Lee's Mill Road, Moultonborough, NH

Thursdays, 7:30pm ♦ Admission Free ♦ Donations Appreciated

## **July 6 Winter with the Loons! — Kittie Wilson**

Where do our loons spend the winter? What do they look like during the winter? How do they survive? Together we will observe a group of loons during the winter months. We will travel with them during their fall migration to the ocean and return with them in the spring, back to our lakes where they will mate, nest, and raise their little loons.

## **July 13 Who Calls in the Night? — Squam Lake Natural Science Center Naturalist**

Who calls in the night? Who glides on shadowy wings in silent flight? What makes owls such extraordinary night hunters? A Squam Lakes Natural Science Center naturalist will introduce you to three of our state's owls to help you find out what is myth or fact about these amazing nocturnal birds.

## **July 20 America's Snake: The Rise and Fall of the Timber Rattlesnake — Ted Levin**

The Timber Rattlesnake is found in 31 US states and yet many of us have never seen one. Ted Levin has spent his life studying this mysterious snake and paints a picture of a fascinating creature: peaceable, social, long-lived, and, despite our phobias, not inclined to bite. The Timber Rattler emerges here as emblematic of America and also, unfortunately, of the complicated, painful struggles involved in protecting and preserving the natural world.

## **July 27 The Truth about Bats — Squam Lake Natural Science Center Naturalist**

Bats have been surrounded by myths for years. It is time to learn the truth! A Squam Lakes Natural Science Center naturalist will share the many amazing features of bats such as echolocation, flight, and feeding habits. Learn about White Nose Syndrome, the disease now devastating native bats, and what it means for their future. Meet live bats and be inspired to help protect these misunderstood creatures as we explore the unique roles these nocturnal mammals play in our world.

## **August 3 Flora and Fauna of the Lakes Region — Rick Van de Poll**

Join Dr. Rick Van de Poll in a fascinating discovery of the plants and animals of the Lakes Region of New Hampshire. This slideshow & talk will introduce viewers to the "gems" of our native biodiversity, from loons to lilies, martens to milkweeds, and wood frogs to wood betonies. Learn the specific ecological attributes of some of our prettiest wildflowers as well as the broad forested habitats required for some of our widest ranging predators.

## **August 10 Coyotes of NH — Pat Tate**

Join New Hampshire Fish and Game fur-bearer biologist Pat Tate for a talk about coyotes in New Hampshire. Learn about the history of coyotes in the state: their life history, current status, the results of research to date and what the future may hold for NH's top canine predator.

## **August 17 Secret Life of Bees — Kelly Dwyer**

Honey bees and other native pollinators play an essential role in our food supply and healthy ecosystems. Join us as we explore the challenges facing these vital insects and how actions we take as gardeners and consumers can make a positive difference. We will discuss strategies to improve wildlife habitat on your property, like Integrative Pest Management (IPM) and native wildflowers which support pollinator health.

## **August 24 John Rockwood & Harry Vogel — End of Season Loon Report**

Wildlife photographer John Rockwood will share photos and video of local 2017 NH Loon families, from arrival through August. LPC Senior Biologist/Executive Director, Harry Vogel, will present trends in New Hampshire's loon population and preliminary statistics on how loons fared in the state this year.





**New Hampshire Loon Census**  
**Saturday, 15 July 2017**  
**8:00 AM - 9:00 AM**

Lake: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Observer(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of people in party: \_\_\_\_\_

**Observations**

	Time	# Adults	# Chicks	# Immatures	*Location/Direction
Example	8:17	1 AD			Flew in from east
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
TOTALS					

Please note any osprey sightings during this hour: \_\_\_\_\_  
(to assist NHA osprey field surveys)

(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. Note the direction in which the loons move or fly.

(2) If possible, please attach a sketch/map of census area and the location of any loons you observe.

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

(4) Remember, a report of zero is just as biologically important as a report of 10 loons.

(3) Your sightings from throughout the summer are also valuable. Please comment on loon activity observed at other times on the reverse of this page.

**CENSUS FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JULY 31 TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL TALLY.**

Please return this form to the LPC office or your coordinator as soon as possible. Thank you!

Loon Preservation Committee, P.O. Box 604, Moultonborough, NH 03254; (603) 476-5666/x5497(fax)

Email: [volunteers@loon.org](mailto:volunteers@loon.org). On-line at [www.loon.org](http://www.loon.org).

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PO Box 604  
Moultonborough, NH 03254

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