



LOON PRESERVATION COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020





The Loon Preservation Committee

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

The Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) is a non-profit, self-directed and self-funded 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.

LPC Staff:

Harry S. Vogel
Senior Biologist/Executive Director
John H. Cooley, Jr.
Senior Biologist
Kellee A. Duckworth
Loon Center Manager
Tiffany J. Grade
Squam Lakes Biologist
Holly M. Heath
Membership/Center Assistant
Caroline M. Hughes
Staff Biologist
Linda Egli Johnson
Special Assistant/Newsletter Coordinator
Kirsten L. Knell
Shop Assistant
Lin L. O'Bara
Development Coordinator
Joan M. Plevich
Database Technician
Bette J. Ruyffelaert
Assistant Loon Center Manager

LPC Board of Trustees:

Kristen F. Begor, *Chair*
Thomas S. Deans, *Vice Chair*
Glyn P. Green, *Treasurer*
Elizabeth P. Gabel, *Secretary*
Susan R. Goodwin
David P. Govatski
Sandra L. Helve
Beverly L. LaFoley
Annie Montgomery
Alex W. Moot
Jeffrey H. Patterson
Jordan S. Prouty (Honorary)
Robert I. Rotberg
Brenda Stowe
Robert W. Varney

Ex-officio Trustees:

Charlie W. Nims,
NH Audubon Board
Harry S. Vogel,
LPC Senior Biologist/Executive Director

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Through the Dark, to Light

As I write this message I have just returned from a walk in the rain with my trusty Labrador, Autumn. The serene splendor of a New Hampshire fall kept us walking to see what was around the next bend, and I was thoroughly soaked and chilled by the end – but just as thoroughly happy to have experienced wandering in the fall woods. And you have to have felt being cold and wet to really appreciate being warm and dry again.

This year has soaked into us as well, and the discomfort and hardship of 2020 will be long remembered by all of us in our different ways. For the Loon Preservation Committee, it meant that our work was a little harder as we were forced to carry out our monitoring, research, management, and outreach in socially distanced ways. But we carried on; and, in fact, surveyed a record number of lakes and counted a record number of loons this summer. And a couple of those lakes, as is happening every year now, were home to a pair of loons for the first time in 30 or 40 years or more. There is nothing quite like hearing the awe and elation in the voices of people who have seen a pair of loons (or loon chicks!) on their lake for the first time in many years, sometimes in their lifetimes.

Those loons returning at long last to reclaim their familial homes represent a triumph of hope and science, both of which have been tested in 2020 (*not* a political statement, hard though that might be to believe in these charged times). There may seem to be little to celebrate as we look back at the close of this year – but the continuing comeback of loons has been a bright spot for many residents and visitors to our lakes, and certainly for LPC volunteers and staff. And even in the confusion and uncertainty of this extraordinary time, concrete is being poured and walls are going up to ready our new and much-improved Loon Center campus for a new year of good work for our loons.

We will all remember this year for years to come, but if the world has fallen heavily on us in 2020, we will appreciate a return to a better normal all the more. For me, and I think for many of you as well, the call of a loon provided a perspective and comfort that was sorely needed at times this year. Nature can powerfully remind us, when our world is too much with us, that life goes on. May it always be so.

2020 Field Survey Summary

Common Loon Monitoring Dashboard

New Hampshire’s breeding loon population made slight gains in 2020, led by a resurgence in nesting success on Squam Lake and supported by record-setting nest site protection and survey effort.

Demographics

The breeding loon population, or territorial pairs (paired loons occupying a territory for at least a month) notched a 2% increase this year, gaining eight occupied territories over 2019, to finish with a total of 321. This continued the modest, step-by-step growth of recent years and occurred state-wide, with gains of at least one pair in six of the nine monitoring regions, slight drops in two of the remaining, and no change in one (the Lakes Region). Success on Squam and continued strong nesting success in western New Hampshire (Sunapee and Monadnock regions) brought the state a

slight increase in overall productivity, from 0.47 chicks surviving per territorial loon pair in 2019 to 0.49 chicks surviving per pair in 2020.

We saw better nesting success on all three big lakes (Squam, Umbagog, and Winnepesaukee), very slight drops in three other regions, identical success both years in the Sunapee region, and a substantial drop in the Seacoast region (from 0.50 CS/TP in 2019 to 0.34 CS/TP in 2020), where nesting success and chick survivorship were both lower than average in 2020. The net result of the ups and downs among the regions was positive; good news for this year and hopefully

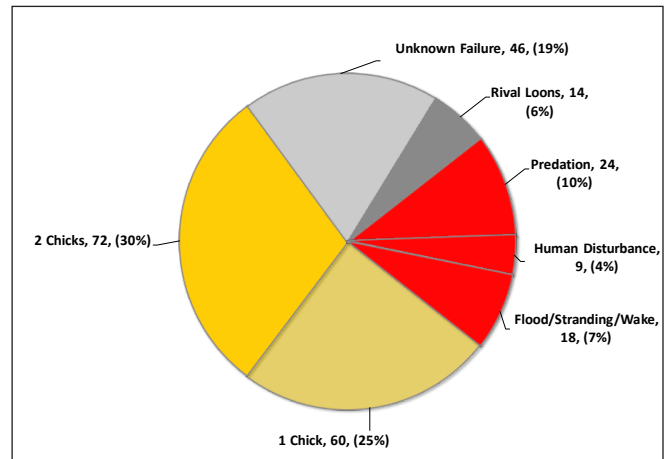


Figure 1: 2020 nest outcomes reflected a hot, dry summer.

good news in the future, as this year’s cohort of juvenile loons reaches adulthood in a few years and returns to continue the population’s gradual recovery.

Monitoring Surveys

LPC’s volunteers and seasonal field staff set a blistering survey pace this summer, in spite of

continued on page 4

Table 1: Results of the 2020 Common Loon Breeding Season in New Hampshire

Population and Productivity	2020	Pre-Loon Recovery Plan (2005-2009 avg.)	2020 vs. Pre-Loon Recovery Plan
Territorial Loon Pairs	321	231	39%
Nesting Pairs	216	155	39%
Chicks Hatched	204	138	48%
Chicks Survived to mid-August	156	105	49%
Nest Failures	111	78	42%
Chicks Surviving/Territorial Pair	0.49	0.46	6%
Management Activity			
Rafts (including five on Lake Umbagog)	89	56	59%
Signs/Ropes	126	61	107%
Loons Rescued	26	6.4	306%
Survey Effort			
Lakes & Territories Surveyed	382 lakes, 532 occupied or potential territories		

COVID-related constraints, and stayed healthy doing it. Field surveys covered a record 532 potential or occupied territories, and 382 suitable or occupied lakes. This was 33 more lakes than we have averaged in the last five years. Thousands of volunteer observation hours and several thousand individual survey visits by LPC field staff ensured high-resolution monitoring at active territories and the ability to closely track population recovery in the future, as loons re-colonize suitable former habitat.

Protecting Nest Sites with Rafts, Ropes, and Signs

Even though crew and volunteers were operating masked and at arm’s length, we were able to float and maintain the existing fleet of rafts and signs and fill in a few gaps where the need was greatest. And a record number of loons accepted the invitation, with 57 pairs selecting raft nest sites (26% of all nesting pairs) and hatching a record number of chicks from rafts (64, or 31% of all chicks hatched). With help from volunteers who built nest signs and ropelines on their own, at home, we protected a record 124 nest sites and 38 brooding areas – 126 loon families in total – representing 59% of all chicks hatched. New Hampshire lakes were crowded with people this year, and nest site protection was all the more critical.

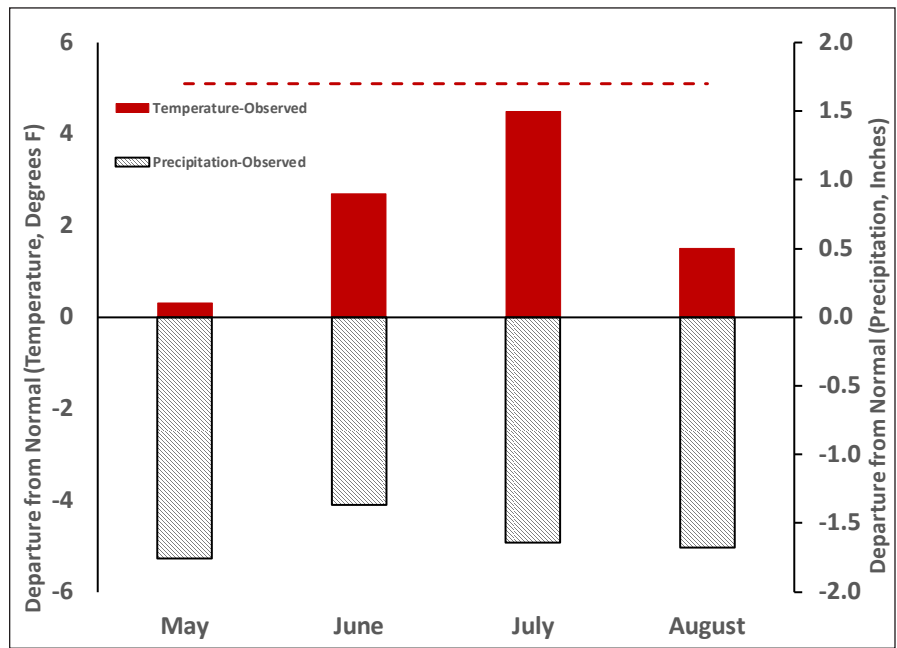


Figure 2: A hot, dry summer for nesting loons. Monthly temperature and precipitation are displayed as departures from climate normals (1981-2010). Predicted 2050 average temperature increase (dashed red line) from Fourth US National Climate Assessment (USGCRP, 2018).

COVID-Free and Sunny: A Hot, Dry Summer

As if made to order for a human populace escaping the pandemic for the great out-of-doors, the summer was uniformly hot and dry, with New Hampshire in a severe drought by September. Fortunately, the full effect of the drought on lake levels was only evident after loons had finished nesting. We saw a limited uptick in the number of loon nests that failed earlier on in the summer, as water levels receded on some lakes and the nest was stranded. This increase was offset in part

by fewer flooded nests than usual (see Figures 1 and 2).

Banding: Venerable Old-timers and Immigration

We continue to marvel at the movements from year to year of known individual loons, as well as the exploits of the venerable ones – the cohort of New Hampshire loons originally banded in the 1990s and now in their early 20’s or older. The most famous of these – a female loon banded in 1993 at Sweat’s Meadow on Lake Umbagog and now at least 30 years old – was back again this

Table 2: Highlights for the 2020 Common Loon Breeding Season in New Hampshire

1st Time Nesting Pairs	Lees Pond, Moultonborough; Locke Lake, Barnstead
1st Time Successful Nests (documented)	Gregg Lake, Antrim; Nubanusit/The Narrows, Nelson; Spofford Lake, Spofford; Spoonwood Reservoir, Nelson; Winnepesaukee/Smith Cove, Gilford
1st Raft Nest Use (Year Floated)	Cedar Pond, Milan (2016); Todd Lake, Bradford (2014)



Drought conditions downstream and dam repairs required a low-tide look at Grafton Pond, where September water levels were more than 12 vertical feet lower than full levels. LPC and DES Dam Bureau and Instream Flow Program staff coordinated water level outreach on over 150 lakes again this year.



Photo Griffin Archambault

An odd nest site on an emergent stump at Childs Bog was stranded as water levels dropped.

year, although in her second year without a territory; her ex-mate, banded as a juvenile in 1994 and now 26, hatched two chicks with a new female. We recorded breeding loons from that same era at three other North Country lakes this year. On Winnepesaukee, we were saddened to recover a dead male loon banded as a juvenile at Black Island in 1998, who succumbed to injury and infection after his first known successful nesting this year. We also rescued a male loon banded in 1998 on Duncan Lake in Ossipee from Broad Bay in Freedom, where he had bred successfully in recent years. He was evicted from his territory by a rival loon in June. Although injuries from this kind of territorial conflict are not always fatal, our Broad Bay/Duncan Lake loon did not survive.

Several loons originally banded in other states were sighted this summer in New Hampshire. These included two adults-banded-as-juveniles ("ABJs") winning breeding territories on Loon Lake in Freedom and Little Dan Hole Pond in Ossipee, both about 25-30 miles west of their original lakes in Maine. Another disperser from Maine, a male loon banded in 2005 on Little Sebagog Lake,

was re-sighted again at Back Bay in Wolfeboro, 40 miles west of Sebago. From the south, a female loon was rescued this July from a roadway in Pittsfield, NH, where she had crash-landed about 35 miles north of her original breeding lake in Haverhill, MA. She was healthy enough to release promptly on a lake in central New Hampshire. Finally, from both the east and the south, another ABJ, this one hatched in 2017 in Maine but banded and released that year in southeastern Massachusetts, as part of BioDiversity Research Institute's efforts to translocate loons into their historic breeding range, turned up on Silver Lake in Madison, NH,

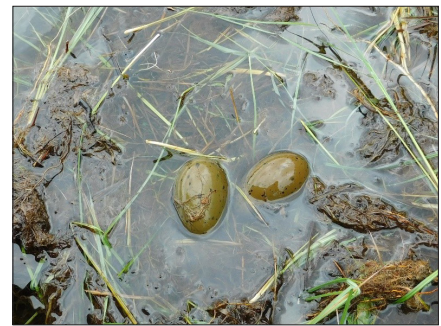


Photo Danielle Lampe/USFWS

Rain in late June flooded two nests on Lake Umbagog in northern New Hampshire, including this one at Leonard Pond.

where it was photographed in June and September, sticking around as a three-year-old young adult.

continued on page 6



Photo Amy Mitchell

A male loon banded in 1999 at Sessions Pond was resighted foraging in the Androscoggin River, south of Errol.

continued from page 5

If we squint a little and look for a pattern in the dispersal trajectories of these re-sighted loons, it's hard to see one! It comes as no surprise that loons ignore state boundaries, but the dispersal distances for most loons is short: 10-20 miles from the natal lake for a juvenile, and 3-13 miles for displaced adults. When outliers turn up, dispersing much farther than average, there seems to be no rhyme or reason to where they end up. As we discover them on local lakes we can't help but wonder what makes these particular young or roving loons, filled with wanderlust, select this lake, right here, as the spot to call home.

LPC field staff conducted 11 nights of capture work this summer on 16 waterbodies, banding 16 adult loons. During these outings we also re-captured five loons banded in previous years. These recaptures allow repeated sampling of known individuals and an opportunity to definitively identify loons who may be missing all but one or two of their original bands. This was the case for a few of the loons banded in the 1990s mentioned above. In addition, in 2020 two rescued adult loons were banded at the time of release. Besides following the subsequent survival and behavior of individual loons after they are banded, feather and blood samples from both healthy capture events and rescues provide data on the health and contaminant exposure of each loon, with current investigations focused on cyanotoxins, avian malaria, and mercury.

Rescues and Mortalities

This year LPC volunteers and staff have documented only three confirmed loon deaths from lead fishing tackle, with a fourth case attributed to lead poisoning from an unknown object. These four

cases were regrettable, but the silver lining is that they amount to less than half the number of lead mortalities collected in each of the previous three years. The lower number so far this year makes us hopeful that New Hampshire's lead-free tackle regulation and continuing outreach, and the collection of lead tackle by LPC and our cooperating partners, is indeed beginning to make a significant difference. When it came to fishing line entanglement this summer, loons were not as lucky. Three adult loons and three juveniles died after becoming entangled. Several other rescue attempts were unsuccessful and observers eventually lost track of the loon, so that the final outcome is unknown. Although two tangled adult loons were rescued successfully, the failures stung: at Knowles Pond, for example, we lost both the breeding male, who had been established there for over a decade, and the chick he hatched this year, to separate instances of entanglement. In response, LPC is supporting volunteer efforts to install waste fishing line receptacles at lake access points and to continue outreach about the hazard to loons and other wildlife of discarded or lost fishing line. Including lead poisoning cases, tangled loons, and other causes, in total this year twenty-six loons have been rescued. Sixteen did not survive,



Senior Biologist, John Cooley, and Sunapee Biologist, Phil Keefe, haul up some driftwood while pulling rafts on First Connecticut Lake in mid-August.

but the other ten were treated or rehabilitated and released without further incident. As the volume of rescue work grows, we are working all the more closely with a network of agencies and lake associations, expert wildlife rehabilitators and consulting veterinarians to monitor, rescue and triage distressed loons. Building on past experience, each case this year provided more insight into appropriate, effective and humane care, and the prospects for a successful release. We continue to be immensely grateful for the expertise of rehabilitators like Maria Colby, Kappy Sprenger, and Avian Haven's Diane Winn, as well as supporting veterinarians, and concerned volunteers and members of the public as they discover, report, and sometimes lend a hand directly in the rescue of distressed loons.

Field Program Acknowledgements

LPC's field season depends each year on a generous constellation of volunteers, partner conservation organizations, businesses, lake associations, veterinarians, and rehabilitators. We extend special thanks for help with injured and rescued loons to: Meadow Pond Animal Hospital; Avian Haven Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center; Maria Colby at Wings of the Dawn; Dr. Mark Pokras, DVM; Kappy Sprenger in Bridgton, ME; and Capital Area Veterinary Emergency Services. We received donations and discounts for boat repair and field supplies from Squam Boat Livery and Heath's Hardware. We relied on lake access and moral support from Robert's Cove Basin and Balch Lake Marinas. Field crew housing (and off-road field biologist rescues!) were provided by the Glover, Good, and Risley families, and the Harris Center for Conservation Education. And we are grateful for extensive help from cooperating agencies and non-governmental organizations: BioDiversity Research Institute; Dept. of Environmental Services/Dam Bureau; Lake Sunapee Protective Association; NH Audubon; NH Fish and Game; NH Lakes Association; NH Marine Patrol; NH Veterinary Diagnostics Laboratory; Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests; Squam Lakes Association; Tin Mountain Conservation Center; Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine; US Fish and Wildlife Service including Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge; and many individual lake and watershed associations.

~John H. Cooley, Jr.

Three Chicks, Territorial Intrusions, and a Late-Season Rescue: 2020 Loon Cam Review and Update

This summer, for the seventh consecutive year, LPC broadcast two live-loon nest cams on You-Tube. We hoped watching the loons continue to live their lives as usual would provide comfort, interest, and a sense of normalcy to our human audience as we all began to adjust to our own new normal in the face of a global pandemic. Fortunately, the loons delivered on all counts!

Loon Cam 1: We were happy to confirm that both banded loons returned to our Loon Cam 1 site. This pair features one of the oldest known loons in New Hampshire, a female banded back in 1998. Because she was banded as an adult and loons do not develop their adult plumage until they are at least three years old, we know that this loon is, at minimum, 25 years old. However, because she was banded in a year when she had chicks and loons, on average, don't produce chicks until they are at least six years old, it is likely that this female is 28 or older. She has been breeding with her mate (who is, at minimum,

9 years old, but most likely 12 or older) since 2014. Both members of the pair returned to the lake by early May, and like clockwork, were on the nest before the end of the month. You may recall that last summer, this pair's chick was predated by an eagle soon after hatching. This year, LPC installed a Natural Avian Guard (NAG) around the nest site in order to deter eagles or other avian predators from landing on the nest. Fortunately (and possibly due to the presence of the NAG), the eagle that plagued this pair last year seems to have moved on. (While an eagle was spotted once on camera before the loons began nesting, it was not seen again and did not seem to bother the loons this year.)

While the eagle did not return, the loons on Loon Cam 1 still managed to have the audience on the edge of their seats during the hatching period! Viewers became concerned when the male loon, who in past years has done the bulk of the incubating during the hatch, seemed to disappear just

continued on page 8



The female loon from Loon Cam 1 waits on the nest with her newly hatched chicks as her mate fights off intruding loons.

continued from page 7

as the first chick began to emerge. He did not return for a long stretch of time, and local residents on the lake soon came into the Loon Cam chat to explain why: intruding loons were on the main body of the lake (an area around the corner and out of sight of the Loon Cam), and the male had been busy fighting them off for hours. These intruders were likely young (3 to 6-year-old) loons looking to establish a territory of their own. This is a natural process – usually, loons prefer to usurp a high-quality territory from another loon rather than try to establish a territory of their own on an unoccupied lake of unknown habitat quality. However, if they succeed at taking over a territory, intruding loons can kill the chicks of their defeated rivals. Because of this, the action taking place outside of the view of the camera was of pivotal importance to the outcome of the nest. Viewers watched and waited. Though the male did return after several more hours, the fight was not over – the female switched places with him and continued the work of trying to get the intruders to leave the lake. Late in the evening, the female returned to the nest area and spent the night on the nest with the two chicks hidden underneath her body. Visiting the nest after both chicks hatch is not unheard of, but spending the entire night on the nest is unusual and was likely done in this instance to keep the chicks safe from the intruding loons. Finally, the pair managed to drive the intruding loons off of the lake, making it safe for them to take their chicks out to the brooding area.

The unpaired loons in the area did not continue to be a problem for the Loon Cam 1 chicks – they both survived to the end of the season, a testament to the chick-

rearing skills of their parents. However, the Loon Cam 1 male did get himself in trouble late in the season. He was rescued by LPC staff on a nearby lake in early September after beaching himself. Based on the circumstances and reports from lake residents, it is likely that he had been injured in a fight with other loons. The loon was taken to Avian Haven in Freedom, Maine, for rehabilitation. Fortunately, no major underlying problems were detected, and he rebounded quickly. After being given a clean bill of health, he was released onto the ocean, and we will be eagerly watching to see if he returns to his lake next year! His late-season absence has not seemed to affect his chicks, who were fully grown and capable of taking care of themselves by the time that he was rescued.

[Loon Cam 2:](#) As with Loon Cam 1, both banded members of the Loon Cam 2 pair returned this year. By mid-June they had laid two eggs, and, fortunately, they had a much more relaxed incubation and hatching period than the loons on Loon Cam 1. Only one of the two eggs hatched on Loon Cam 2. This is not an uncommon occurrence in New Hampshire, and one chick hatched is still a great success. After the hatch, the loon family remained in their nesting area for several days – much longer than usual – before moving to the area where they



Once the intruders left the lake, the Loon Cam 1 family left the nesting area.

have historically brooded their chicks. This meant that Loon Cam viewers were treated to several extra hours of watching as the adults bonded with their newly hatched chick. This family had much to deal with throughout the summer – intruding loons showed up in their territory in late July, and resident eagles harassed the family. With the help of its parents, the tenacious chick persisted in spite of these obstacles – it was spotted by LPC biologists in late August, providing a happy ending to this story.

Three chicks fledged from two pairs made for a highly successful year for the Loon Cams! Visit our youtube channel ([youtube.com/user/looncenter](https://www.youtube.com/user/looncenter)) for selected highlights from the cams, and while you're there, be sure to check out our Thursday Night Nature Talk with Looncam Operator, Bill Gassman, if you're curious about the technical aspects of the Loon Cam. Thanks to all who watched this summer, and we look forward to next year's cams!

~Caroline Hughes

A Banner Year for Squam Lake

I watched the spring unfold on Squam Lake with astonishment: early in the season, loons were settling down on their nests in what I regarded as a most un-Squam-like manner. In the thirteen years I have worked on Squam, I have become accustomed to a late and protracted onset of nesting on the lake. Year after year, I would listen to talk around The Loon Center of nests springing up all over the state, while I waited impatiently for Squam's first pair to begin incubation, knowing it could still be several weeks off. So you can understand my amazement this summer as pair after pair went on the nest in rapid succession. One memorable day, I found newly nesting pairs at the first three territories I visited!

Of course, it is one thing for the pairs to start nesting, another thing for the eggs to hatch, especially in recent years on Squam. So I watched anxiously over the nests during the month-long incubation. The end result: 11 chicks hatched from 13 nesting attempts

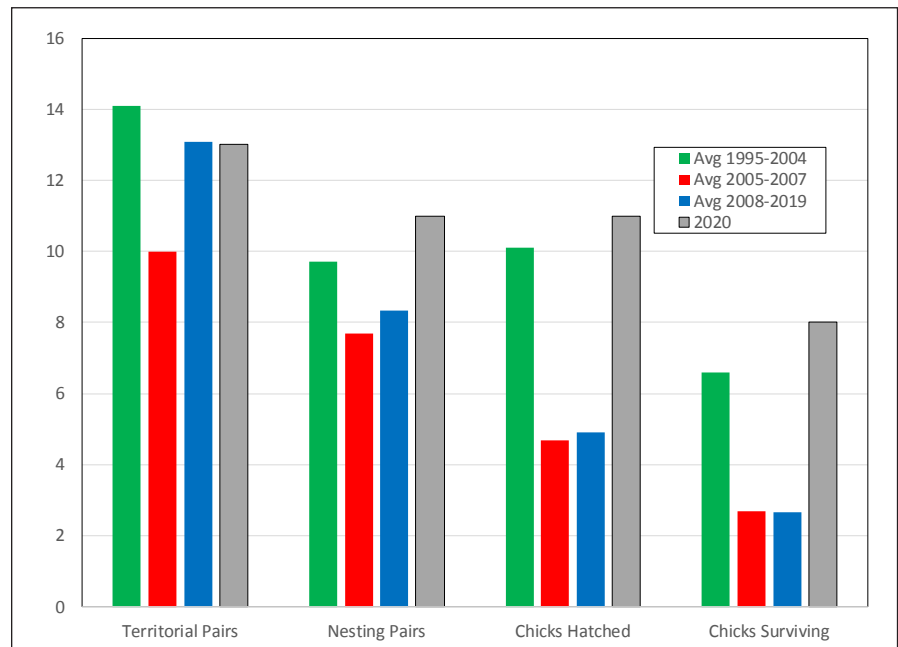


Figure 1: Productivity of Squam Lake's loons in 2020 compared with recent and historical averages. The period of 2005-2007 were the years of critical decline on Squam Lake.

on Squam Lake in 2020, and 8 chicks fledged – the best year since 2003, both in terms of chicks hatched and chicks surviving!

A comparison between 2020 and recent averages shows just what an extraordinary year 2020

was for Squam's loons (Fig. 1). 2005-2007 were years of critical decline for Squam's loon population, with the initial loss of 44% of Squam's paired adults in a single year followed by years of low productivity among the remaining pairs. Since 2008, the number of paired adults on the lake has recovered and stabilized, but breeding success has remained low – until this year.

A closer look at productivity again indicates the exceptional results on Squam in 2020 – but also reasons for caution (Fig. 2). Loon chicks surviving per territorial pair (CS/TP) is the overall parameter that incorporates rates of nest initiation and hatching and survival of chicks. Research has suggested that a rate of approximately 0.48 CS/TP is needed to maintain a stable loon population (Evers et al. 2010). In the decade prior to the decline of loons on

continued on page 10

Photo Randy Roos



continued from page 9

Squam, Squam was very close (0.47) to this benchmark. However, breeding success collapsed in subsequent years, dropping to less than half (0.20) of the 0.48 level and also less than half of the statewide average. In 2020, Squam hit 0.62 CS/TP – very encouraging news, but we also have to be cautious: one year does not make a trend. While celebrating the success of this year’s Squam loons, it is much too early to declare Squam recovered, and the recent rates of productivity illustrated in Fig. 2 suggest reasons for caution and continued vigilance and effort on Squam.

So what happened in 2020?

Why were Squam’s loons so successful this year? As with the original declines in 2005 and the ongoing poor productivity in subsequent years, it is likely that many factors contributed to the successes of 2020. It is worth noting that all but one of the 2020 chicks hatched from rafts floated by the Loon Preservation Committee, and every one of them hatched from nest sites protected by LPC’s signs or signs/ropelines. The same number of rafts were floated on Squam this year as in previous years, but it was heartening to see so much success from LPC’s management efforts.

The most notable feature of the 2020 loon season was how quiet it was in terms of loon intrusions, particularly during the pre-nesting and incubation periods. The most notable exceptions to this generalization occurred with nests that were initiated later in the season or second nesting attempts; but for all those loon pairs that nested early, they were able to have an incubation relatively free of intrusions.

This was very different from previous years. The loss of many of Squam’s paired adults in 2005 seems to have resulted in a va-

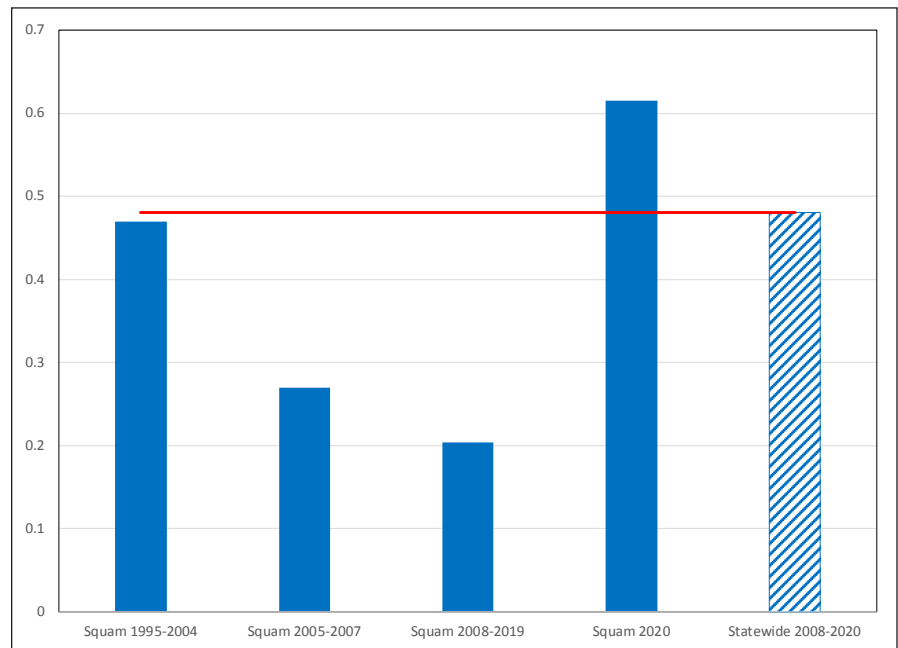


Fig. 2: The overall measure of productivity, chicks surviving per territorial pair, shows the low rates of breeding success on Squam in recent years compared with both pre-decline levels and the statewide average, as well as the good year on Squam in 2020. 2020 results are encouraging, but these are results from a single year and recent averages indicate that they need to be interpreted cautiously. The red line indicates the productivity level that research has suggested is needed to maintain a stable loon population.

cuum in the social structure of Squam’s loons. These losses have been compounded by elevated rates of adult loon mortality from lead fishing tackle and other anthropogenic causes. The loss of so many established, experienced adult loons led to the immigration of new loons to fill vacant territories. These loons were jockeying for territories, intruding on other pairs and driving out remaining established loons, disrupting nesting, and, in some cases, killing chicks, leading to a situation on Squam that I refer to as “social chaos.” While these behaviors are typical for territorial disputes, the effects on Squam were amplified due to elevated rates of human-caused adult mortality and the resultant territorial vacancies.

This social chaos seems to have been one of several important factors contributing to the poor productivity on Squam in recent

years. Intense fighting early in each breeding season may have resulted in low rates of nest initiation in the years after 2005. As nest initiation rates gradually began to climb again, the effects of social chaos seem to have played out most severely in disrupted incubation and nest failures. From 1975-2004 (prior to the declines on Squam Lake), LPC documented that loon intrusions accounted for 5.1% of nest failures on Squam. From 2015-2019, this percentage jumped to 22.0%.

The relative quiet that settled over the lake in 2020 was a welcome relief. Incubations passed peacefully, and pairs were able to hatch their chicks. My hopes are that the social structure on Squam is stabilizing and, as pairs become more settled and established, productivity will rebound.

Of course, breeding success is
continued on page 15



Loon Preservation Committee

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

APRIL 1, 2019 - MARCH 31, 2020

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.

In our important work to protect New Hampshire's loons there are good days and not so good days. Today was not a good day! I just returned home after delivering a dead loon to LPC. We won't know how that loon died until a necropsy is performed; but, if I had to guess, I would say it died of lead poisoning. Lead fishing tackle is the primary known cause of adult loon mortalities in New Hampshire. Although LPC has many efforts underway, such as the Lead Tackle Buyback Program, to reduce these mortalities, these deaths are still occurring at rates high enough to significantly impact our loon population. In 2019, seven adult loons in the state were confirmed to have died from ingesting lead fishing tackle. As a result of the Lead Tackle Buyback Program, just over 10,000 individual lead sinkers and lead-headed jigs were collected in FY20. Had they remained in circulation, any one of these pieces of tackle had the potential to kill a loon. Additionally, New Hampshire fishing license sales are booming. This may result in more old (and now illegal) lead tackle from old tackle boxes being used, which may cause more loon deaths.

But every day is not a sad day! I continue to be humbled and invigorated by the support we have received to date for our Spreading Our Wings capital campaign to expand LPC's Moultonborough facilities and build on our successful work. LPC was formed in 1975 to recover New Hampshire's failing loon population with a budget of \$5,000 and a "field office." Eventually The Loon Center in Moultonborough was built and has been the home base for LPC's state-wide programs of monitoring, research, management, and education since 1993. Our work has met with success beyond anyone's dreams. LPC became one of the first organizations anywhere to show that coordinated and thoughtful action could reverse the decline of a threatened or endangered species. Today, our research represents the longest and most complete study of any loon population in the world, and our management is recognized as the most comprehensive, innovative, and successful of loon conservation efforts anywhere. Our success has inspired the creation of statewide, regional, and even international organizations to preserve loons, and our efforts continue to benefit other species that depend on clean water, quiet places, and healthy ecosystems.

In stride with these advances, the number of loons on our lakes is on an upward trend – 313 pairs last year, more than five times as many as when we started 45 years ago. But we are now challenged by that very success. LPC's programs have grown to keep pace with New Hampshire's growing loon population and the increasing threats they are facing. LPC floated 87 loon nesting rafts across the state in 2019, more than triple the number deployed the year we built The Loon Center. The 121 pairs of nesting loons we protected with signs and ropelines and the 120 presentations LPC gave in 2019 are a five- and four-fold increase respectively since moving into The Loon Center. Built to accommodate four staff members, our Loon Center is now bursting at the seams with nine year-round staff and over 20 biologists and support staff at the peak of the loon breeding season. We now need to grow our home base to accommodate our increased workload!

I want to thank each of you who have already supported LPC with a gift to the Spreading Our Wings campaign and ask others to consider joining this important investment in our New Hampshire loons. We look forward to welcoming all of you to the newly renovated Loon Center next season!

Kristen F. Begor
LPC Chair of the Board of Trustees



Board of Trustees

- Kristen F. Begor,
Chair
- Thomas S. Deans,
Vice Chair
- Glyn P. Green,
Treasurer
- Elizabeth P. Gabel,
Secretary
- Susan R. Goodwin
- David P. Govatski
- Sandra L. Helve
- Beverly L. LaFoley
- Arthur P. McGinnes
- Annie Montgomery
- Alex Moot
- Jeff Patterson
- Jordan S. Prouty,
Honorary
- Brian J. Reilly
- Robert I. Rotberg
- Brenda Stowe
- Robert W. Varney

Ex-officio Members

- Doug Bechtel,
NH Audubon President
- Harry S. Vogel,
*LPC Senior Biologist/
Executive Director*

LPC Staff

- Harry S. Vogel,
*Senior Biologist/
Executive Director*
- John H. Cooley, Jr.,
Senior Biologist
- Kellee A. Duckworth,
Center Manager
- Tiffany J. Grade
*Squam Lake Project
Biologist*
- Holly M. Heath,
*Membership/Center
Assistant*
- Caroline Hughes
Staff Biologist
- Kirsten Knell
Shop Assistant
- Linda Egli Johnson,
*Special Assistant/
Newsletter Editor*
- Lin L. O'Bara,
*Development
Coordinator*
- Joan M. Plevich,
Database Technician
- Bette Ruyffelaert
Assistant Center Manager

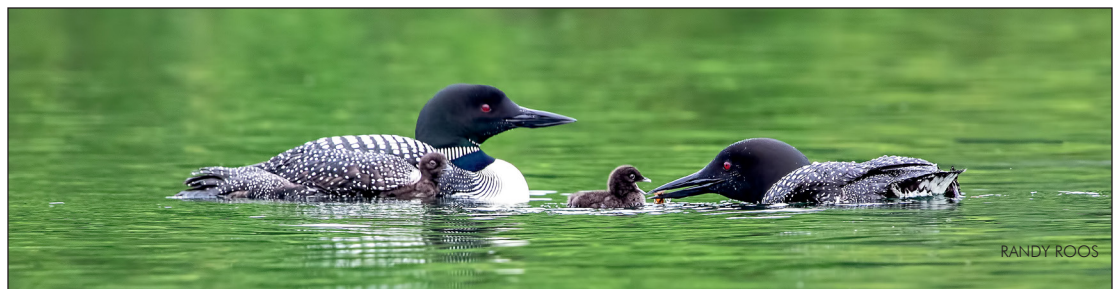
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:

The Loon Preservation Committee's Fiscal Year 2020 (April 1st of 2019 to March 31st of 2020) began like many others, with earnest preparations for another field season to support New Hampshire's loon population. It ended very differently, with The Loon Center closed to the public because of a novel virus and socially-distanced staff working from home, along with much of the rest of the country. But between the normal and the novel, LPC celebrated many milestones, among them an expanded Lead Tackle Buyback Program that removed over 10,000 pieces of lead tackle as a threat to loons and other wildlife, and a new record of 313 pairs of loons on New Hampshire's lakes. Those pairs produced 148 surviving chicks, over 90% of them hatched with a little help from LPC's management activities.

In those numbers lies a story of success and need: a growing loon population, facing an increasing number of challenges, has required a substantial expansion of LPC's programs to ensure the continued recovery of this species. LPC's nine year-round employees now compete for space in The Loon Center with biological samples and the increased office and field equipment and supplies required to continue and grow our programs to support loons.

A recognition of the limitations of our headquarters and visitor center put in motion a long-planned expansion of those facilities. After intensive study and many meetings with architects and engineers, we found ourselves close to a worthy goal for an environmental non-profit – an energy-neutral campus. The combination of rooftop solar panels and new energy-saving technologies we have envisioned will achieve that goal, and stretch our budget, and we are resolved to do it – because it's the right thing to do for this organization. LPC has not achieved its extraordinary success over 45 years of good work for loons by choosing the easy over the challenge, and our plans reflect that philosophy.

The end of FY20 marked old and novel challenges for LPC and for all of us. But the support we have received from friends of loons has been heartening, and a revitalized LPC will emerge from these trying times to continue our important work for loons and the people who love them. Our new facilities, and the dollars they will save us on yearly operating costs, will go to the heart of why we are here: they will facilitate and power the monitoring, research, management, and education that will continue the loon's recovery in New Hampshire. Given that focus, and knowing our history, I am confident that we will continue to be up to every challenge facing loons.



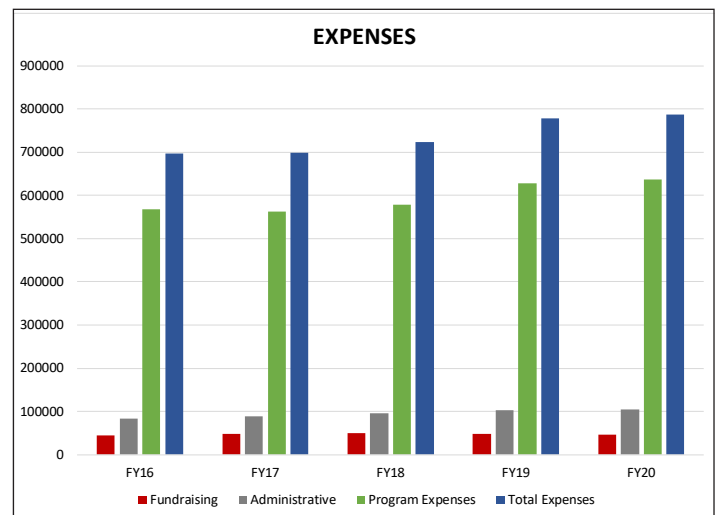
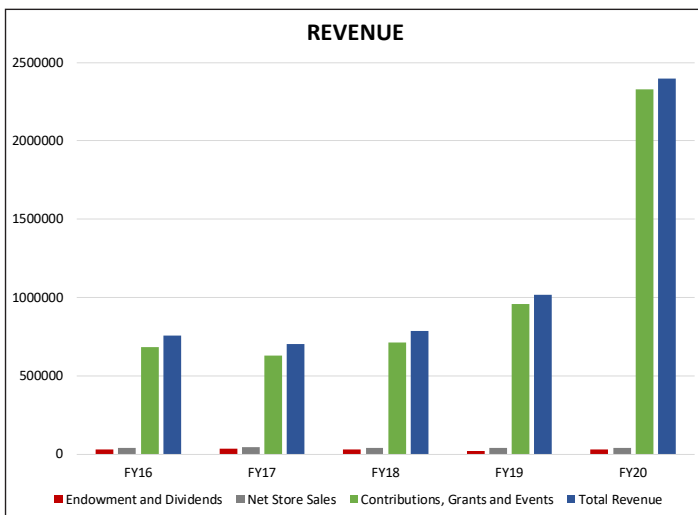
Population and Productivity:

	<u>FY16</u>	<u>FY17</u>	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>
Territorial Loon Pairs	289	294	296	309	313
Nesting Pairs	211	208	202	226	221
Chicks Hatched	234	200	168	224	193
Chicks Surviving to mid-August	174	147	126	157	148

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

Loon Preservation Committee: Summary of Activities and Changes in Net Assets
Fiscal Year Ending: March 31

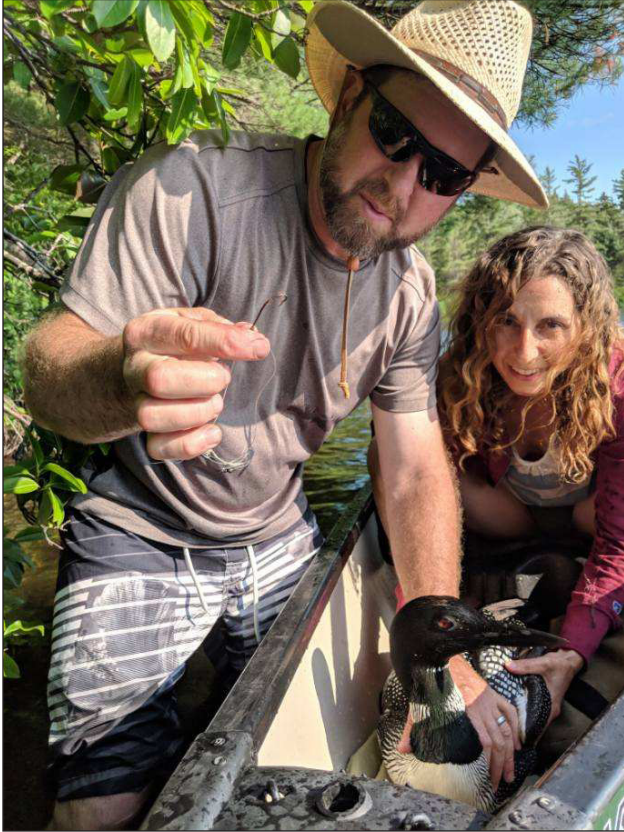
	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
Revenue:					
Contributions, Grants and Events	\$685,725	\$627,291	\$710,453	\$959,380	\$2,328,325
Store Sales, Net Cost of Goods	\$42,188	\$43,070	\$40,013	\$38,894	\$37,952
Endowment and Dividends	\$29,973	\$34,576	\$31,770	\$19,657	\$28,768
Total Revenue	\$757,886	\$704,937	\$782,236	\$1,017,931	\$2,395,045*
<i>*Includes gifts received during the silent phase of our capital campaign</i>					
Expenses:					
Program Expenses	\$568,278	\$563,088	\$578,166	\$627,733	\$636,374
Administrative	\$84,191	\$88,141	\$94,855	\$103,132	\$104,337
Fundraising	\$44,697	\$47,601	\$49,053	\$48,182	\$46,166
Total Expenses	\$697,166	\$698,830	\$722,074	\$779,047	\$786,877
Increase in Net Assets:	\$60,720	\$6,107	\$60,162	\$238,884	\$1,608,168



LPC's financial records are audited by Rowley & Associates of Concord, NH. Copies of the audit and the IRS 990 return are available on our website: www.loon.org.



Dispose of tackle responsibly—hook, line, and sinker!



Peter and Doreen Guillette (left) untangle fishing line and extract a large fishing hook from the back of a loon on Reservoir Pond.



Field Biologist, Lynda Moore, and Tufts veterinary student, Olivia Pea, attempt a rescue at Waukeena Lake. Tragically, the loon later died of lead poisoning.



Reporter Tim Callery of WMUR-TV interviews LPC Senior Biologist, John Cooley, about the Lead Tackle Buyback Program.



LPC Staff Biologist, Caroline Hughes, inventories lead fishing tackle collected as part of the Lead Tackle Buyback Program.

L
O
O
N
S
A
F
E



L
E
A
D
F
R
E
E



Lead fishing tackle is the leading cause of adult loon mortality in New Hampshire. Loons can ingest lead fishing tackle from a line or attached to a fish. Use only non-lead fishing tackle to protect loons and other wildlife—it's the law! And please dispose of fishing line and tackle properly to prevent entanglement and potential injury or death to loons. For more information on LPC's lead poisoning reduction initiative visit loonsafe.org.

continued from page 10

highly variable from year to year and can be influenced by many factors: weather, predators, human disturbance, and contaminants, to name a few. Contaminants on Squam remain elevated but are generally lower than the levels in the mid-2000s when there were notable reductions in loon survival and reproductive success. LPC is investigating the possible effects of these contaminant levels on loon reproductive outcomes. And it is not just loons and other wildlife at risk: LPC's investigations into contaminants on Squam led to a fish consumption advisory for PCBs by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services due to risks to humans.

On Squam, keeping adult loons alive and avoiding preventable deaths from lead poisoning, boat strikes, fishing line entanglement, and other human causes of loon mortality will be key to helping stabilize the social structure. The loss of one of Squam's paired females this past summer to a boat strike does not help this situation. And, as mentioned above, 2020 was a single year – it is not a trend and Squam's loon population is far from being recovered. Loons are long-lived species with

a protracted life history – perturbations to their environment and social structure cast a long shadow from which it takes time for a loon population to recover. But a lake full of loon chicks this summer was a welcome and encouraging sign, and LPC will continue working to support Squam's loon population and restore a healthy population of loons to the lake. As we continue working to reduce human-caused loon mortality, provide safe and protected nesting and brooding

sites, and investigate the influence of contaminants and other factors on Squam's loon population, 2020 provided cautious hope that Squam's loon population is beginning to rebound.

~Tiffany Grade

Reference: Evers, D. C., J. D. Paruk, J. W. McIntyre, and J. F. Barr. 2010. Common loon (*Gavia immer*). Account 313 in A. Poole, editor. The birds of North America online. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York, USA. <<http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/313>>.



Photo Randy Roos

2020 Loon Census

On the morning of July 18th, 501 LPC volunteers took to New Hampshire's lakes and ponds to count loons. Their effort was part of a decades-long tradition, the Annual Loon Census. The Loon Census began in 1983 as a way to involve lake users in loon conservation efforts. Though it isn't the only way that LPC collects data on New Hampshire's loon population (please see 2020 Field Survey Summary, pages 3-7), it provides us with incredibly important information, it helps us to detect any changes in hatching success or chick survival that have occurred on a given lake since our biologist's last visit, and provides a mechanism for discovering previously undetected loons in each territory.

This year, Loon Census volunteers surveyed 118 of New Hampshire's lakes and ponds. During the hour-long monitoring effort, they counted a total of 481 adult loons, 83 loon chicks, and 4 immature loons (1–2 years old). The lakes surveyed during the census represent roughly 1/3 of the lakes that LPC biologists monitor annually, and the Census observations were incorporated into the season-long data collected by our biologists on these lakes. For a full count of New Hampshire's loon population in 2020, please see our monitoring report.

In a year where we had to cancel so many of our annual events in order to prevent the spread of Covid-19, we were glad to be able to still hold the Census, an event that easily allows for social distancing. We are so thankful to our 501 volunteers who came together (while remaining apart) in order to support LPC's loon monitoring efforts!

~Caroline Hughes

LPC Continues to Lead on Lead (Pb) in 2020

This year marked 20 years since New Hampshire became the first state in the nation to restrict the use of lead fishing sinkers weighing one ounce or less (the size most often ingested by loons) and some lead-headed jigs (weighted hooks) in lakes and ponds. The Loon Preservation Committee led the legislative effort to secure these key protections in response to LPC's extensive data showing that lead fishing tackle was, by far, the largest known source of adult loon mortality in the state. In 2013, LPC led another successful legislative effort to close loopholes in the law by banning all lead sinkers and jigs weighing an ounce or less and prohibiting their sale and freshwater use (including in rivers) in New Hampshire.

Over the years, LPC's efforts to secure legal protections for loons (the strongest in the nation) and to raise public awareness of the lead threat have substantially reduced the number of loons dying of ingested lead tackle; however, rates of mortality from lead tackle remain high enough to impact New Hampshire's loon population. These continuing mortalities have shown that legislation must be paired with continuing and increased education and management.

LPC launched its first-in-the-nation Lead Tackle Buyback Program in 2018 to educate anglers and the public about the threat of tackle to loons and the laws restricting the sale and freshwater use of lead tackle; to improve the availability of proper disposal options; and to provide a financial incentive for anglers to make the switch to loon-safe, lead-free tackle. Funded by generous donors, and with the help of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and participating tackle shops, LPC has supplied \$10 vouchers to those turning in their lead tackle to help them buy new, loon-safe, non-toxic tackle. This partnership has been productive, to the tune of close to 15,000 pieces of lead tackle forever removed as a threat to loons and other lake wildlife in its first two years.

Year three of the Lead Tackle Buyback Program began this summer with increased advertising through digital, print, and social media and an enhanced LoonSafe.org website. We have extended the tackle buyback through the ice fishing season this coming winter, and have even introduced a "Collect to Protect" contest that awards cash prizes to the anglers making the largest trade-ins at each store and to the store that

collects the largest amount of lead fishing tackle. These new incentives to clean out old tackleboxes are being complemented by more lead tackle collection boxes at transfer stations to increase opportunities to hand in lead tackle, and outreach to online retailers to ensure that they are aware of and adhere to state restrictions.

The incredible success of this program has already spawned lead tackle buyback programs in Maine and New York, and LPC will continue to share its experience and expertise with these and other states launching similar programs to save loons and other lake wildlife. For more information about the program, including a list of participating retailers and municipal transfer stations with collection bins, please visit LPC's Loon Safe Website (www.loon-safe.org).

~Harry Vogel



Despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, a record number of lakes were surveyed in 2020 and a record number of loons counted. And a few of those lakes were home to a pair of loons, or loon chicks, for the first time in 30 or 40 years or more! These successes are in part the result of increased monitoring, research, management, and outreach funded by LPC's Loon Recovery Plan.

For more information about the Loon Recovery Plan, or to make a donation, please contact Senior Biologist/Executive Director, Harry Vogel, at 603-476-5666 or hvogel@loon.org.

Kappy Sprenger Honored at LPC's 2020 Annual Meeting

The Loon Preservation Committee held its first-ever virtual Annual Meeting on August 20th this summer. The change from our traditional gathering at The Loon Center to share loon stories over a potluck dinner followed by an in-person meeting was one of many concessions to Covid-19 this year. The meeting opened by Zoom at 6:30 with a welcome from the Chair of the Loon Preservation Committee Board, Kristen Begor. Kristen remarked on an unusual but ultimately successful year of work throughout New Hampshire to support loons and presented LPC's Annual Report for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31st of 2020 (included with this Newsletter). LPC Treasurer, Glyn Green, reported that LPC had completed FY20 in the black with a clean audit and noted that anyone may download LPC's Audited FY20 Financial Statements from our website at www.loon.org. Kristen honored retiring Trustee Sandy McGinnes and retiring Trustee and former Board Chair Brian Reilly for their long and distinguished service on the Loon Preservation Committee Board. Bob Rotberg, Chair of LPC's Governance Committee, presented a slate of officers, all of whom were willing to continue in their current positions (please see a list of LPC Officers and Trustees on page 2) and outlined a number of changes to update LPC's By-Laws. LPC members voted to ratify the slate of officers and accept the revised By-Laws.

A highlight of the Annual Meeting was the presentation of the 13th annual "Spirit of the Loon" Award, created to honor LPC's founder Rawson Wood by recognizing an individual who exemplifies outstanding volun-

teer service to loons and the Loon Preservation Committee. LPC was pleased to present the 2020 Spirit of the Loon Award to pioneering loon rehabilitator Kappy Sprenger. Kappy has donated countless hours taking in, rehabilitating, and releasing loons brought to her by LPC staff and volunteers. Loons are a notoriously difficult species to care for in captivity, and nursing sick or injured loons back to health is a challenging and intensive process. Kappy has turned her home into a rehabilitation center for as many as a dozen loons a year from throughout Maine and New Hampshire, a truly extraordinary achievement. She has learned that loons have distinct personalities and adapts her methods to give individual birds the care they need to recover and be released back into the wild. Her facilities are designed to approximate, as much as possible, a loon's natural environment and reduce human contact to minimize stress and maintain a loon's instinctive caution in the wild.

Kappy's attention to these details of a loon's physical and behavioral needs has been rewarded



Kappy Sprenger, pioneering loon rehabilitator and recipient of LPC's 2020 Spirit of the Loon Award.

by her success in nurturing countless loons back to health over her years of work. The lessons we have learned from Kappy's work have contributed to a much-improved rate of survival and release of sick or injured loons. Her willingness to accept loons at any time of the day or night has been crucial to providing prompt treatment, and LPC staff have often commented on how relieved and appreciative we are when we see Kappy's car, complete with "LOON RSQ" license plate, arriving to accept a sick or injured loon. We know that her appearance means that a loon will have the best chance of recovery and release back into the wild.

LPC works with a growing network of wildlife rehabilitators,
continued on page 18

continued from page 17

wildlife agencies, veterinarians, and volunteers to rescue, nurture, and release loons. Kappy's expertise and devotion have inspired, mentored, and helped grow that network over her many years of work to help our loons. She stands out as a pioneer in the field of loon rehabilitation, and we were very pleased to name her our Spirit of the Loon Award recipient for this year.

The Spirit of the Loon Award was followed by an outstanding presentation of loon pictures and video footage by long-time LPC member and volunteer John Rockwood. LPC Senior Biologist/ Executive Director Harry Vogel followed John's extraordinary show with preliminary results of the Loon Preservation Committee's monitoring, research, management, and educational programs in 2020. He was happy to report on LPC's success, despite the increased challenges to LPC staff and volunteers as a result of Covid-19, in ensuring a successful year for loons in New Hampshire (please see 2020 Field Survey Summary, pages 3-7). John's presentation and Harry's report were broadcast live on Zoom and on LPC's YouTube Channel, and you can find recordings of them by visiting our channel at youtube.com/user/looncenter. Thank you to all of the virtual attendees of LPC's Annual Meeting who helped us celebrate another year of success in recovering New Hampshire's loon population!

~Harry Vogel



Thank you Eunice!

Volunteers are the backbone of LPC, whether they be the field volunteers putting out rafts on a chilly April day or The Loon Center volunteers helping to restock the gift shop before the next bus tour arrives. This year's standout Loon Center volunteer is Eunice Jackson. Eunice exemplifies what it means to be a volunteer, cheerfully helping with everything from stuffing envelopes to helping in the gift shop to becoming LPC's premier paper shredding expert in the lead-up to The Loon Center's renovations. Even with the fears surrounding Covid, she came in, mask in hand, ready to help out with projects that could be done while maintaining social distancing, allowing the staff to focus on providing a safe environment for visitors. And she did a yeoman's job helping pack up Loon Center contents for storage before the contractors arrived. We look forward to welcoming Eunice back once the construction at The Loon Center is complete and for many more years to come!

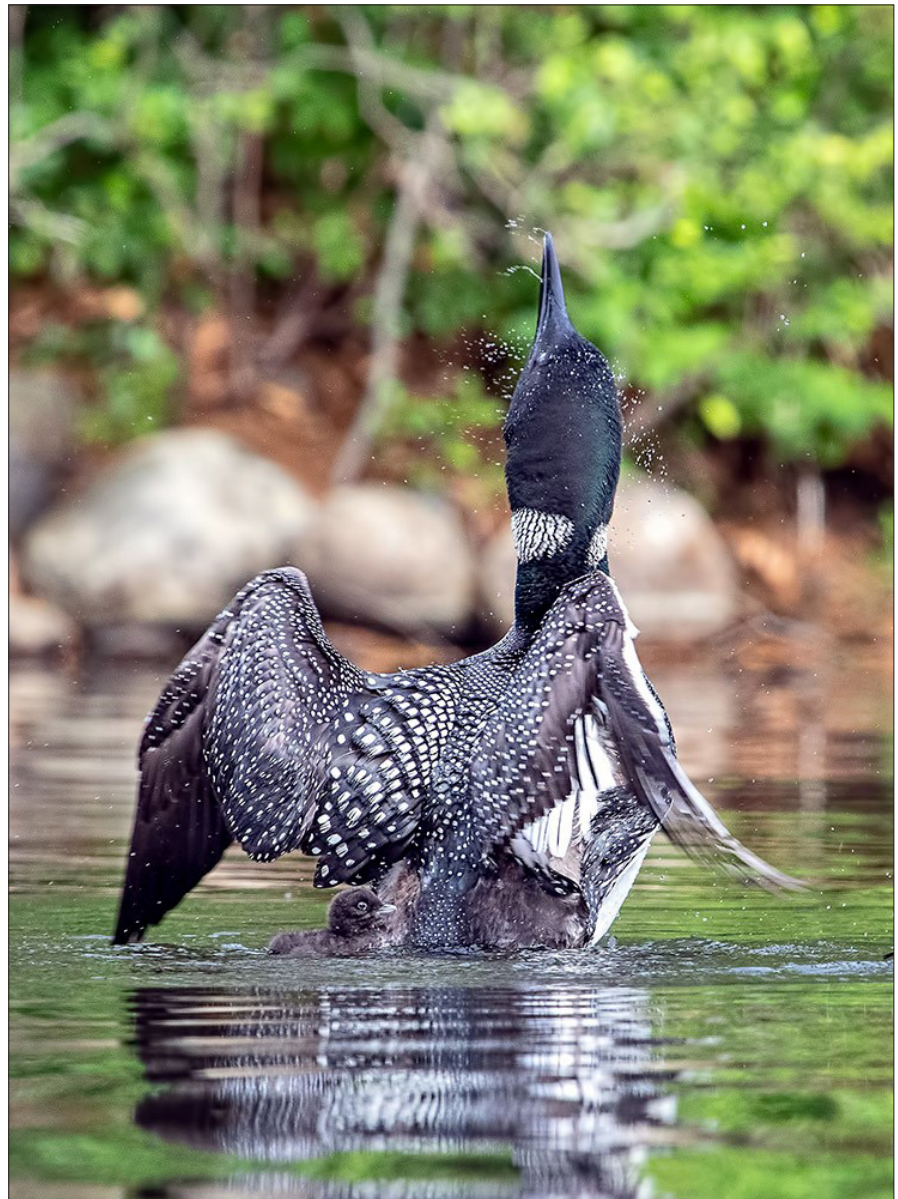


Photo Randy Roos

The Loon Center Expands to Fit LPC's Needs

The Loon Center has served as the base for the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC)'s state-wide monitoring, research, management, and educational activities for 27 years. New Hampshire's loon population has more than tripled in that time; however, loons remain a threatened species in the state and face an increasing number of challenges. LPC staff and volunteers have responded with a three-fold increase in loon nesting rafts floated each year, a four-fold increase in nest sites protected with rope lines and Loon Nesting Area signs, and a nearly five-fold increase (in normal years) in exhibits and presentations to teach people about loons and their needs. This work has been complemented by statewide efforts to reduce loon deaths from exposure to lead fishing tackle, prompt rescues of sick or injured loons, and analyses of inviable eggs and deceased loons for contaminants and to determine causes of nest failures and



Groundbreaking in the era of Covid: Masked figures from left to right are Ron Baker, Building Committee Chair; John Wilson, Capital Campaign Committee Chair; Charlie Veasey, Stewart Architects; Kristen Begor, Loon Preservation Committee Chair; Peter Stewart, Stewart Architects; Sandy McGinnes, Capital Campaign Committee Vice Chair; Harry Vogel, Senior Biologist/Director; and Bryant Lehr, Vice President of Conneston Construction Incorporated.

loon mortalities.

LPC has more than doubled its year-round staff to help our increasing number of loons cope with their growing challenges, and now employs more than twenty staff including seasonal

field biologists and veterinary interns at the peak of the loon breeding season. One result of our expanded operations is that every space in The Loon Center is filled to overflowing with field and office staff, equipment, supplies, and biological samples. LPC's Board and staff recognized that our facilities needed to grow as our programs to recover our loon population have grown.

LPC's Spreading our Wings Capital Campaign was launched to expand The Loon Center to provide additional work and laboratory space for biologists, new workspaces for other staff and volunteers, library and conference space, and dedicated storage for biological specimens and supplies. Our new Kittie and John Wilson Field Operations Center adjacent to The Loon Center will include much-needed housing for seasonal field biologists and veterinary interns, along with workspace for construction of nesting

continued on page 20



The expanding Loon Center: our new addition and interior redesign will house new/expanded staff offices, a library/conference room, the Loon's Feather shop, a laboratory, and dedicated storage for biological, field, and office supplies.

continued from page 19

rafts and signs, and maintenance and storage of boats, trailers, and field equipment.

We are thrilled to report that we have met and exceeded our fundraising goal of \$2 Million thanks to the generosity of 530 donors and friends of loons – a welcome and, it turns out, necessary achievement, because costs of our project have continued to grow. Some of those increases have been a result of reaching for worthy goals like an energy-neutral campus, and others have been due to increased costs for materials and labor as a result of the building boom in New Hampshire brought on by Covid-19 and other factors.

Our new and expanded campus will power the increased monitoring, research, management, and education needed to continue the loon's comeback in New Hampshire. Thank you to all who contributed to this important and necessary next step in LPC's evolution!

~Harry Vogel



The foundation for the new Kittie and John Wilson Field Operations Center: living quarters for seasonal field biologists and veterinary interns and working and storage space for field equipment and supplies.

Although we all look forward to a newly renovated Loon Center, Covid-19 will dictate our re-opening to the public in 2021. Please stay tuned and check our website (www.loon.org) for the most up-to-date news. And please consider our on-line store at loon.org/shop for your holiday shopping. (See pages 22-23 for holiday specials and teasers!) We greatly appreciate your support!



Many hands...

Thanks to volunteer, Eunice Jackson, the daunting task of packing the contents of The Loon Center into storage containers went a lot easier! As a matter of fact, we can thank her personally for filling 20'x8' Storage Container #1, all while wearing a mask and enduring the summer heat!

A shout out to Lakes Region Biologist, James Longo, for extending his field season to lend a hand with packing as well. It takes a village and we are truly blessed to have one!

Keeping Up with LPC!

While The Loon Center is closed for renovations, we've made it easy to keep up with LPC online! Our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts are updated frequently with loon photos, information about loons and loon activity in New Hampshire, and LPC's work. Give us a follow, and while you're at it, be sure to subscribe to our E-Newsletter to keep informed about what's going on at LPC. Use your phone camera to scan the QR code below or visit loon.org/socialmedia for links to all of our social media accounts! ~Caroline Hughes



Photo Kithie Wilson



SCAN ME

THE LOON LEGACY SOCIETY

*Remembering loons now —
and forever*

For more information on legacy giving, please contact LPC Executive Director, Harry Vogel, at 603-476-5666 or hvogel@loon.org.

Photo Kithie Wilson

The Loon's Feather Gift Shop

Selling "all things loon" and more!

When did we get to autumn? How are we only weeks away from Christmas? This has been such an odd year; it feels like March was just a couple of weeks ago, not half a year ago. At this point in a normal year, we here at LPC would be well into our planning and prepping for The Loon Center's Holiday Open House and all the fun, food, and discounted shopping that comes with it. Since we can't do a big holiday sale in person this year, we're moving it online. During the weekend of Black Friday to Cyber Monday, we will be offering deals and sales similar to those offered at the Holiday Open House. 10% off sale prices will be universal across the board with members getting extra discounts via their online discount code. Check in for additional offers throughout the sale weekend.

To view what is available online or to make a purchase, please visit loon.org/shop.
(Members: please email info@loon.org to receive your discount code.)



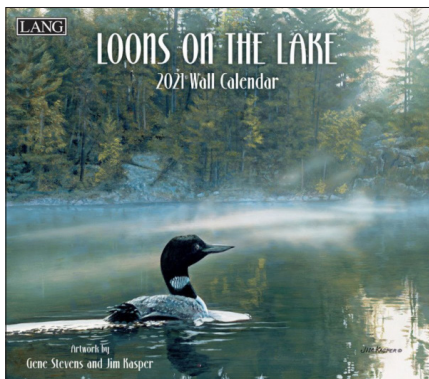
New for 2020!

"Loon Family" Holiday Greeting Card by Scott Church

5"x7" card features a loon carrying two chicks in Santa hats and two holiday parcels on its back. Set against a green background flecked with falling snow.

Inside Greeting: Season's Greetings

Box of 15 cards; \$17.95; printed on recycled, acid-free paper in the USA by Allport Editions



"LOONS ON THE LAKE" Calendar - \$18.95; 14" x 24"

- Large day grids for notes, major holidays, and moon phases
- Printed on elegant linen embossed paper stock
- Features 12 full-color art pages and a brass grommet for hanging
- Designed to fit LANG wooden calendar frames



LOONS "Spirits of the North" Calendar - \$14.99; 12" x 24"

- Large day grids for notes, major holidays, and moon phases
- Features 12 full-color photos

Don't forget to order your 2021 loon calendar!

Add a splash of color to your wardrobe with these new loon-themed t-shirts!

Loon Calls T-shirts by Northmade Co.

Adult: Printed on a Kelly green, poly-cotton t-shirt (50% polyester/50% combed-cotton)

Unisex Sizes Small – X-Large \$28.95; 2XL \$30.95

Youth: Printed on a bright green Bella + Canvas youth tri-blend t-shirt (polyester, cotton, rayon)

Sizes Small – X-Large, \$22.95



Charley Harper “Claire de Loon” T-shirts by Liberty Graphic

100% pre-shrunk cotton t-shirts; printed in the USA with water-based ink.

Ladies’ Charcoal-Gray V-Neck:
Sizes Small – X-Large \$30.95; 2XL \$35.95

Men’s Denim Blue:
Sizes Small – X-Large \$26.95; 2XL \$30.95



Holiday shopping on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)? Pick the Loon Preservation Committee from Amazon’s list of participating charities, and they will donate a portion of the purchase price to LPC!

Loon Preservation Committee
PO Box 604
Moultonborough, NH 03254

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MOULTONBOROUGH, NH
PERMIT NO. 12

Alton 875-8500
Ashland 968-7103
Center Harbor 253-7303
Gilford 528-1500
Laconia 527-6030
Melvin Village 544-2019
Meredith 279-7986
Meredith-Route 104 279-5274
Moultonborough 476-2300
Plymouth-Hannaford 536-3200
Plymouth-Main Street 536-8228
Portsmouth 334-9661
Wolfeboro 569-6655

Toll-free (800) 922-6872
www.mvsb.com

The Loon Preservation Committee
gratefully acknowledges



for underwriting this publication.

