



LOON PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2021



Photo courtesy of Randy Roos



The Loon Preservation Committee

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

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The More Things Change...

It's a very satisfying experience to complete a large and complex task, especially when the challenges associated with that project meant that the outcome was uncertain. The project I am describing is the construction, now substantially complete, of the new and expanded Loon Center Campus. This endeavor took a considerable amount of hope, planning, organization, and hard work spread among LPC Trustees, friends, and staff. And it happened even as Covid-19 and economic turmoil posed their own challenges for LPC to accomplish its important mission to recover New Hampshire's loon population, monitor loons as indicators of environmental health, and promote a greater understanding and appreciation of loons and the larger natural world. That other, much larger project, the one the Loon Preservation Committee was created for, remains incomplete, despite very substantial progress. Progress that our expanded and new buildings were created to facilitate for the foreseeable future.

To take nothing away from that first bricks and mortar accomplishment, its real value is not new walls and a bigger and better, electricity-generating roof over our heads. It's the equipment and supplies and educational exhibits, and most importantly by far, the staff, that work within those spaces.

This year we will set a new record for the number of loon nesting rafts we float on our lakes. We will likely, depending on our number of nesting loon pairs, set a new record for the number of those pairs protected by ropes and signs. We will add substantially to the number of lead sinkers and jigs we forever remove as a threat to loons. Less tangibly, but no less importantly, we will add to the body of research that will ensure the success of our efforts to protect loons and help them thrive, even in the face of seemingly intractable threats like climate change and the always increasing human use of our lakes.

The real importance of our fancy new digs is that they are a foundation for, and symbol of, our commitment to our continued and expanded work to save loons. Our focus on that singular goal hasn't changed. That work will go on the same as before. But better.



Kittie Wilson Photo

Northeast Loon Study Working Group Meeting: LPC Zooms Out to an Expanded North American Audience in 2021

After the annual Northeast Loon Study Working Group (NELSWG) meeting was cancelled due to COVID last year, the group was back in action in 2021, with the Loon Preservation Committee hosting six virtual two-hour sessions in March. We still weren't in person, but the virtual format enabled a wider audience, gathering attendees and presenters from across the US and Canada. We heard descriptions of loon ecology and behavior from Wyoming's Yellowstone region to the southern Appalachians and the Florida panhandle, and reports on LPC's findings in New Hampshire were paired with research underway on datasets from the Midwest, Canada, and across North America. Recent results from some of these projects are sounding alarm bells for loon conservation across the continent. From Wisconsin,

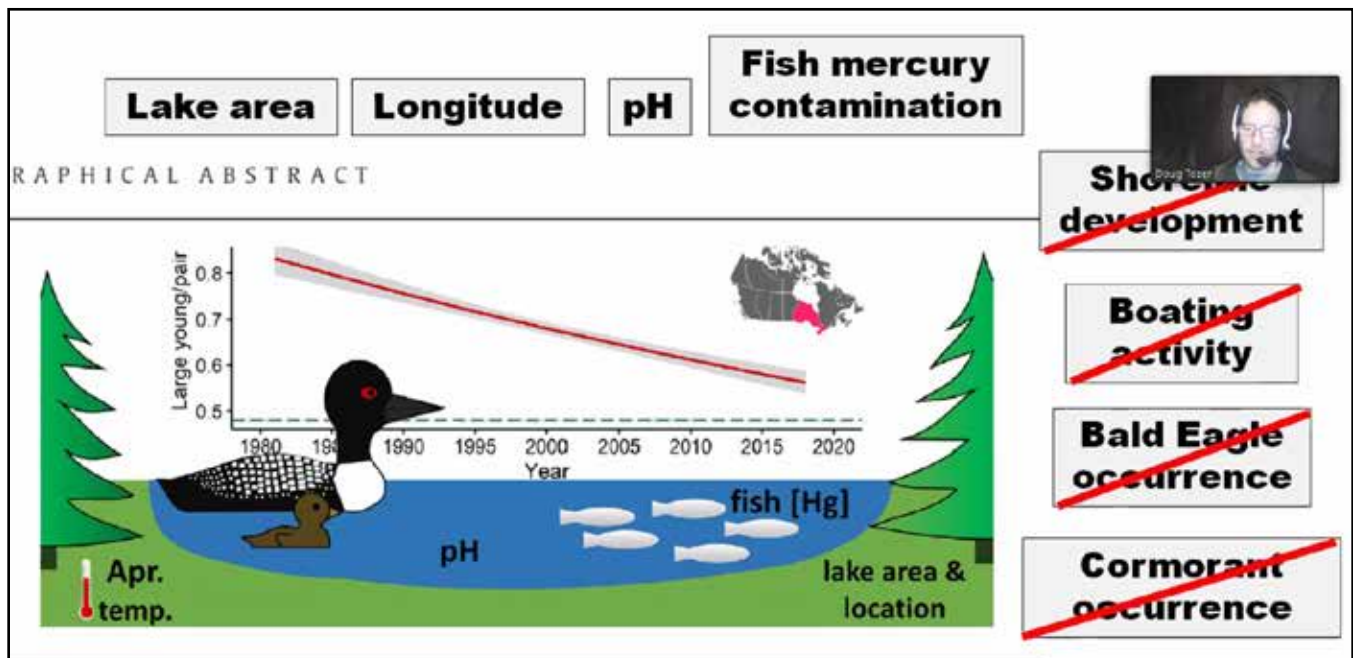
Walter Piper and colleague Sarah-Saunders detailed worrisome declines in reproductive success and unpaired "floater" loons (Piper et al. 2020), and projected declines in Wisconsin's loon population in the future, driven by climate change and human land use (Saunders et al. 2021). From Birds Canada, an analysis of decades of volunteer observations from hundreds of lakes has revealed increasing population trends in some regions and declining trends in others, but underscores the lingering impact of acid rain on loon productivity in Canadian lakes (Bianchini et al. 2020) (see figure below). Here in New Hampshire, LPC's Tiffany Grade reported on the growing evidence that both legacy and emerging contaminants besides mercury are present at problematic levels on a range of lakes, beyond the initial focal

study lake, Squam.

Turning from observational research to applied techniques, other NELSWG sessions included Vermont Center for Ecostudies' Eric Hanson's review of the wide variety of artificial loon nest raft designs, and summaries of LPC's Lead Tackle Buyback Program and COVID-era outreach from Sheridan Brown and Caroline Hughes, with a discussion of loon rescue and rehabilitation from Dr. Mark Pokras (see photo page 4).

The expanded audience at NELSWG this year presages an international loon symposium now planned for Fall 2022 in Portland, ME. North American working groups on loon community science and loon rescue and rehabilitation have formed in advance of the symposium, and a third research group is planned.

continued on page 4



This screen shot, from Birds Canada scientist Doug Tozer's presentation, captures the "Zoom" feel of the 2021 NELSWG conference, and highlights factors found to affect loon productivity in a recent analysis of long-term data from Ontario lakes.

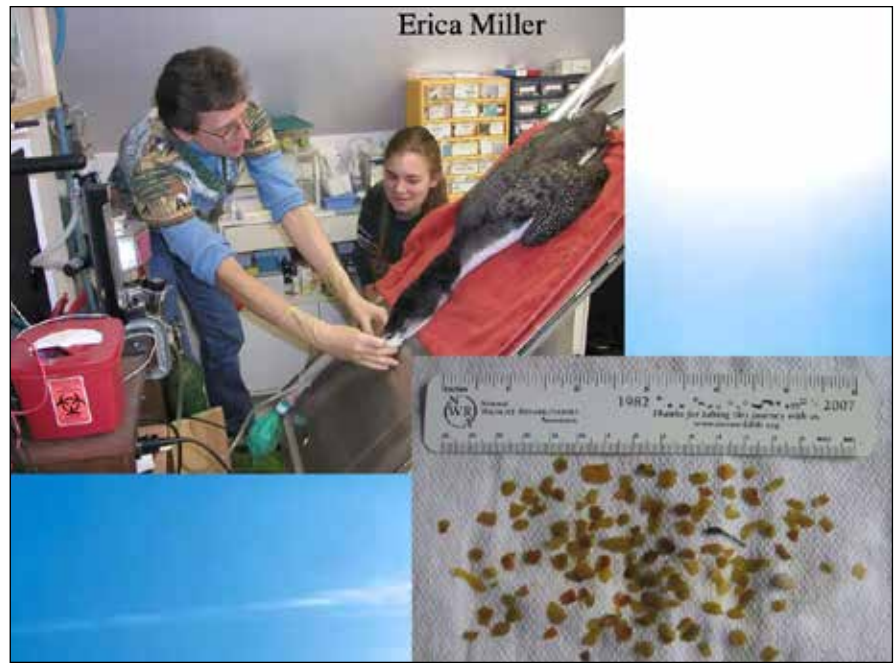
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Like NELSWG, the groups have been able to meet virtually, with much overlap in participation. Even as progress with the COVID pandemic makes in-person meetings possible again, LPC's improved capacity to host and attend remote meetings has expanded the usual collection of loon researchers, managers, and community scientists, who typically huddled for a group photo in The Loon Center's driveway during pre-pandemic in-person NELSWG events. Those gatherings and group photos will certainly be back in future New Hampshire mud seasons, but for Loon Preservation Committee staff and colleagues, 2021 promises to be an exciting year for collaborations inspired by this year's wider virtual reach.

~John H. Cooley, Jr.

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- Piper, W. H., J. Grear, B. Hoover, E. Lomery, and L. M. Grenzer. 2020. Plunging floater survival causes cryptic population decline in the Common Loon. *The Condor* 122.
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Mark Pokras Photo

NELSWG presentations on loon rescue work included this photo of a loon being treated for lead poisoning at Tri-State Bird Rescue in Maryland. Unfortunately, treatment for lead poisoning is rarely successful.

The virtual format of the 2021 Northeast Loon Study Working Group meeting allowed for an expanded audience, with attendees and presenters from across the U.S. and Canada. The following individuals presented at this year's meeting, which was hosted by the Loon Preservation Committee:

- Kristin Bianchini, Acadia University & Birds Canada
Sheridan Brown, Loon Preservation Committee
Alex Dalton, Biodiversity Research Institute
Dave Evers, Biodiversity Research Institute
Tiffany Grade, Loon Preservation Committee
Ericka Griggs, Biodiversity Research Institute & Western Connecticut University
Eric Hanson, Vermont Loon Conservation Project
Caroline Hughes, Loon Preservation Committee
Kathy Jones, Birds Canada
Andy Kratter, Florida Museum of Natural History
Arcatta Leavitt, Ricketts Conservation Foundation
Katie Lowe, University of New Hampshire
Jay Mager, Ohio Northern University
Ellen Martinsen, University of Vermont
Jim Paruk, St. Joseph's College
Walter Piper, Chapman University
Mark Pokras, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, Tufts University
Sarah Saunders, National Audubon Society
Lucas Savoy, Biodiversity Research Institute
Inga Sidor, New Hampshire Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Vin Spagnuolo, Ricketts Conservation Foundation
Paul Spitzer, Florida Museum of Natural History
Doug Tozer, Birds Canada
Harry Vogel, Loon Preservation Committee

Winter Loon Rescues: A Solstice Marathon to Cap Off a Busy Year

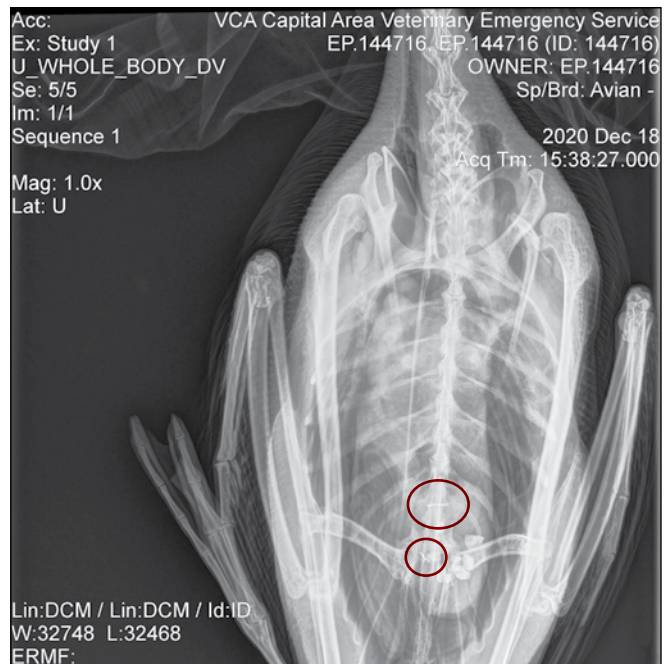
To cap off a year that included over 30 loon rescues, December 2020 featured a marathon four-day stretch as the lakes froze. From Dec. 18-21, LPC and NH Fish & Game staff, supported by wildlife rehabilitator Maria Colby, rescued six loons, with five released successfully on the New Hampshire coast. As a winter storm on the 17th of December dumped a few feet of snow across central New Hampshire the initial call came from Webster Lake in Franklin, where the slushy ice that formed during the storm had trapped an adult loon. Nick-named "Ellie", after the courageous Eleanor Roosevelt, but in fact a good-sized male (A.K.A. "Eliot"), this loon showed a few hook fragments in a radiograph (x-ray) taken at Capital Area Veterinary Emergency Services in Concord. Blood lead levels were elevated but below the threshold for acute poisoning, and Eliot the loon was released the following day at Odiorne Point in Rye. Mild or moderate lead poisoning seems more common in iced-in loons than with summer rescues, with at least four such cases in the last six years.

As Eliot was released on Saturday, LPC and Fish & Game staff were attempting rescues in Moultonborough and northern New Hampshire. On Lake Francis, the Deadwater Stream male banded in 2012 was seen in the leads between ice floes on Friday and then out on the solid ice on Saturday, pursued at times by a Bald Eagle. After safety preparations, Conservation Officers Chris Egan and Levi Frye found the loon the following day in the middle of the frozen lake, where it must have spent at least 24 hours on the ice, and transported it

south to Groveton. In the meantime, a second attempt on Kanasatka Lake on Sunday used a 60-ft tarp to cover all but a small patch of the remaining open water. This confined the stranded juvenile loon so that it could be caught. The loon was transferred to Maria Colby in Concord on the way to assess another loon, the fourth of the weekend, on Angle Pond in Sandown. A small juvenile loon, likely migrating through New Hampshire, had been stranded for several days and the relatively thick ice made this rescue the most

straightforward of the series. From Angle Pond, LPC staff Caroline Hughes and John Cooley

continued on page 6



The X-ray of "Eliot", the adult loon with mild lead poisoning rescued from Webster Lake in Franklin on December 18, showed a few hook fragments in the gizzard. These usually break down in the gizzard like fish bones, without harm to the loon.



A cardboard box provides the perfect soft surface for loon transport containers. The Webster Lake loon, "Eliot", took full advantage, poking a large hole before release on the coast at Odiorne. Moments after this photo, spotting open water, Eliot made a break for the waves through the hole in the side of the box and over the last few yards of beach, and was soon swimming out of the cove.



LPC biologist Caroline Hughes and volunteer Bob Hughes band a loon rescued from the ice on Lake Webster in Franklin before release at Odiorne Point in Rye, NH.

Caroline Hughes releases the banded loon into the saltwater at Odiorne.



continued from page 5

divvied up the duties as a second snow storm descended, with Caroline delivering the Angle Pond loon to Maria Colby while John drove north the hundred miles to Groveton to pick up the Lake Francis loon and relay it down to Concord. The tag teaming continued on the following day. Milton Pond loon watchers Heidi and Mac Ford had been monitoring two juvenile loons as they became trapped, and on Monday morning both were rescued, again using a tarp to confine them to a small area of open water. These two were transported directly to the coast, where Caroline Hughes, John Cooley, Maria Colby, and a volunteer met up to band and release the Angle Pond loon rescued the previous day and the two from Milton. A triage consultation with Dr. Mark Pokras resulted in the difficult determination that humane euthanasia was in

the best interest of the Kanasatka loon, since an x-ray showed clear signs of developing aspergillosis in the air sacs. This untreatable condition was confirmed by a necropsy at the NH Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Durham.

The cases that piled up on this one December weekend underscore how little we know about loons at this time of year. Were the two juveniles on Milton Pond more likely to stick around because another loon, perhaps a sibling, was also present? Do stranded juveniles sometimes lack the proper instinct to migrate, or are they just unlucky? Is ice-in a predictable bottleneck, when age or debility can catch up with a well-established breeding adult loon, like the Deadwater male? Each rescue case provides a little more insight into these winter mysteries. Piecing together the factors affecting loons at this point

in their annual cycle, case by case, is an important side benefit as we intervene to help them on their way to the coast.

~John H. Cooley, Jr.

In February of 2007, 17 loons were discovered frozen on the ice in the Broads on Lake Winnepesaukee. Another five were rescued, treated, and released on the ocean. Record warm temperatures in December and January appeared to delay the fall migration for these birds. These lingering loons were already in the midst of their annual wing molt and were rendered flightless. When it turned sharply cold, and the lake froze over quickly, these birds became stranded. You can read a full account of this sad day for loons in the Spring 2007 Newsletter found on our website at www.loon.org.

Banding loons: How, why, and what are the risks?

If you've encountered a bright spotlight sweeping over the surface of a New Hampshire lake late on a summer night, chances are that you've witnessed a team of LPC biologists in the process of banding loons. Across North America, thousands of loons have been banded since the practice was perfected in the 1990's. Here in New Hampshire, the Loon Preservation Committee and our partners began banding loons in 1993. Since then we have banded nearly 600 New Hampshire loons.

Banding has been a valuable tool for loon conservation—it has helped researchers, including LPC, learn more about basic aspects of loon life history, health, movement patterns, and wintering habitat. However, to those who are unfamiliar with it, the details of the banding process and the reasons why it is important to band loons may be unclear. Read on to learn how we band loons, why banding is important to recover our loon population, and what the risks of banding may be.

How do we capture loons for banding?

If you've spent time around loons, you likely know that, in general, they dive and swim away when boats approach too closely. How, then, are we able to capture loons to band them? The banding methods employed by LPC were originally developed by pioneering loon researcher Judy McIntyre and later refined by David Evers of Biodiversity Research Institute. To capture loons, we go out after sunset so the loons cannot see the boat or crew. The banding crew consists of at least three people: the boat driver, the spotlihter, and the netter. The spotlihter shines a bright spotlight across



Jean Despres Photo

This male loon is the only New Hampshire loon that has been successfully treated for lead poisoning. He was originally banded in 2000, was rescued with lead poisoning in 2014, and has returned to his lake in the years since his rescue and successful treatment. In his lifetime, this loon has hatched at least 18 chicks, 7 of which were hatched in the years after his rescue.

the surface of the water, and once the loons are located, the spotlight remains trained on them as the boat approaches. This typically allows us to approach the loons closely enough to scoop up the adults in a large net. We catch the first adult and allow the chicks to stay on the water with the other parent while the first parent is banded. When it comes time to catch the second adult, we catch the chicks as well (in a separate, smaller net, so that they are not harmed). The chicks are kept safe in the

boat while the second parent is banded.

What happens after the adults are captured?

To minimize stress on the loons,
continued on page 8



Kittie Wilson Photo

The United States Fish and Wildlife band is clearly visible on this loon on Pleasant Lake. The photographer was 80-feet away on shore, behind a blind, using digiscoping--taking photographs by attaching a camera to a spotting scope.

continued from page 7

we complete the banding process as quickly as possible, usually in 20 to 30 minutes. The loons are safely restrained by one or two biologists while other biologists collect morphometric data. The data collected includes measurements of their bills (length, width, depth, and overlap) and legs (tarsus length and width). The tarsus width measurement is used to select the size of the bands that the loon will receive. Each loon receives four bands, two per leg. One band is an aluminum United States Fish and Wildlife Service band, which contains a unique numeric identifier for that loon. Because it would be nearly impossible for biologists to read that number upon seeing the loon on the water in the future, each loon is given additional plastic color bands. Together, the four bands form a unique color combination that can be used to identify individual loons.

In addition to applying the bands, LPC biologists also take a small blood sample and feather samples from the adult loons. Finally, the adult loons are weighed. Loon chicks are not banded, and blood and feather samples are not taken from them; however, we do weigh the chicks so that we can record their weight in comparison to their age and in comparison to the weight of their sibling. Chicks are released with their parents, and our biologists watch from the boat to ensure that the family regroups before leaving the lake.

Following banding, several tests are run on the collected blood to establish health parameters for that loon, and any remaining blood is archived for potential future testing. We check on the loon's blood lead level, calculate its packed cell volume (a measure of what percentage of the blood consists of cells, which can pro-

vide a general indication of the loon's overall health), and determine the total protein, which is also an indicator of overall health. These tests allow us to monitor the condition of the loons and detect any potential problems that may require more intensive monitoring. Loon blood samples and smears are also sent to our collaborators, including to Dr. Ellen Martinsen at the University of Vermont, who checks them for the presence of malaria

parasites, and Dr. Jim Haney at the University of New Hampshire, who checks them for cyanotoxins. Any blood that is left over is archived for potential future testing for mercury or other contaminants. Feather samples are also archived for potential mercury testing, as mercury levels present in the feathers that were developed on the ocean can provide important information about the levels of that contaminant on the loons' wintering grounds.

Why band loons?

The existence of banded loons has provided a wealth of information to LPC and other organizations working to conserve this species across North America. Physical differences between loons are virtually impossible to detect with the naked eye, and as such, it is not possible to tell loons apart unless they are banded. Being able to identify individual loons has helped us gain important information that we would not otherwise know. It has allowed us to better understand



Hugh McManus Photo

A male loon banded on Wakondah Pond, Moultonborough (NH) in 2013 was photographed eating a flounder on Long Island Sound (CT) in March of 2021—fairly far south along the New England coast for a NH loon.

loon survival rates, reproductive rates, and other factors that influence population trends. For instance, the life span of the common loon is still not well understood; however, thanks to banding, we now know that loons can live several decades. The oldest known loon in New England is a female that breeds on Lake Umbagog. She was originally banded as an adult in 1993 and has been spotted back on her lake this spring. Since loons do not reach adulthood until their third year of life, we know that she is, at minimum, 31 years old this year; however, because loons typically do not reproduce until they are six years old or older and she had chicks at the time of banding, it is likely that this loon is actually 34 years old or older. New Hampshire is home to several other loons that are over the age of 25. In addition to determining age and annual survival, when loons are banded, we are also able to track exactly how many chicks they have produced since they

continued on page 16

2021 FIELD STAFF SELFIES!

LAKES REGION



JAYDEN JECH

Jayden is pursuing degrees in Biology and Environmental Studies at Eckerd College. His hands-on experience includes wild bird rescue efforts in the Tampa Bay area, and project coordination with the St. Petersburg Audubon Society's Hooked Bird Program.

SEACOAST



OLIVIA FORTUNA

Olivia is back for a second season in the seacoast region. Among her exploits during the pandemic was to pursue training as a yoga instructor. She is eager to become reacquainted with her volunteers and loons during a more normal field season!

MONADNOCK



MARY CAFFREY

Mary earned a BS in Zoology from UNH. She has extensive experience with mist netting songbirds—close to 3000 birds so far—including safe bird handling, extraction, identification, and banding, as well as assembling, dis-assembling and repairing nets.

SUNAPEE



PHIL KEEFE

Phil returns to the Sunapee region this summer after a year of undergraduate classes at UNH, and getting used to attending classes remotely. He is excited to resume his loon field work and further build his resume toward a career in wildlife and land conservation.

NORTH COUNTRY



OWEN McGOVERN

A graduate of UNH with a BS in Wildlife Conservation Biology, Owen is no stranger to the North Country. In a joint project with UNH and NHF&G he tracked and monitored radio-collared moose to research calf survival and reproductive success.

WINNIPESAUKEE



GRIFFIN ARCHAMBAULT

Last year's Monadnock biologist, this year's Winnepesaukee biologist! Griffin spent the past year working as a deer technician for the state of Kansas, and on turkey and ruffed grouse projects for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

FIELD BIOLOGIST-AT-LARGE



EMMA PURINTON

A graduate of William & Mary with a BS in Biology, Emma will help with surveys, nest site protection, and rescues in all four of the southern monitoring regions (Lakes, Seacoast, Monadnock, and Sunapee), and Winnepesaukee, where she attended Camp Nokomis.

FIELD BIOLOGIST-AT-LARGE



KALEIGH MacDONALD

Kaleigh is a recent graduate of St. Lawrence University with a BS in Biology and Psychology. She will help monitor and protect nest sites on Lake Winnepesaukee and other Lakes Region lakes, as well as support LPC's streaming webcam projects.

LPC's SQUAM LAKE region is monitored by Tiffany Grade, LPC's full-time Squam Lakes Project Biologist.

MORE SELFIES...

FIELD BIOLOGIST-AT-LARGE



ELAINA BADDERS

Entering her final year at UNH for Wildlife Conservation Biology, with a minor in Animal Behavior, Elaina attended classes remotely last year which allowed her time to work at an equestrian school in Vermont. She returns for her third season in the Monadnock region.



CUMMINGS SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, TUFTS UNIVERSITY



JILLIAN HOJSAK

Jillian will be concluding the rock tumbler project started by previous Tufts' interns back in 2013 and 2017. She will simulate a loon's gizzard using rock tumblers and hydrochloric acid to investigate how fishing tackle breaks down in the gizzard.



JINGY LI (JENNY)


Jenny will spend the first half of the summer at LPC assisting with rescues, mortality exams, and healthy capture sampling. She will round out the summer at the University of Maine, analyzing the genetics of the loon gut biome.

“The summer night is like a perfection of thought.” –Wallace Stevens

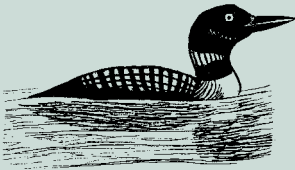
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ANNUAL LOON CENSUS
SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2021
8AM - 9AM



CENSUS FORM ENCLOSED
(SEE PAGE 27)

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Karen Walsh
Elisa Walts
Mr. William Weiler
Susan Whaley
Ms. Carolyn E. Wood
Clive Wood

\$500 to \$999

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Amazon Smile Foundation
Colin and Melody Anderson
Deborah Anderson
Karl Bandtel
David and Brenda Beardsley
Mr. Ned B. Beecher &
Ms. Christine Clyne
Phil and Lisa Bennett
Matthew Benson
Kathy Berman & Jay Buckley
Mr. Peter Bixby & Ms. Frieda Yueh
PJ Blankenhorn & Tony Wagner
Blue Loon Bakery
Woody and Shelby Blunt
Lorraine and Brien Bolsinger
Gene and Joyce Bolton
Bud and Betsy Booth
Anne W. Borg
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Borkowski
Chip and Janine Broadhurst
Megan Burke Kidder
Martha Caron
Gretchen Christophel
Mr. and Mrs. Armand Circharo, Jr.
Nancy Collins & Michael Rendish
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Comenzo
Mr. and Mrs. Julian L. Coolidge
Donald and Brenda Dargie
Charles de Sienes & Carol Ward
Hank and Connie Dolben
Karen and Amy Duggan

Voorhees and Gloria Dunn
Dana Duxbury-Fox & Robert Fox
E.M. Heath, Inc.
John and Becky Faunce
Beth and Merrill Fay
Michael and Marilyn Fenollosa
Jon and Kathleen Fliss
Mr. Steve Fusi
Hon. and Mrs. Arthur J. Gajarsa
Mr. Marc Gallagher &
 Ms. Stephanie Hayes
Mrs. Tom Garesche
Bob Garneau
Jerome and Lorry Gates
Tony and Diane Giamberardino
Geoffrey and Karen Gill
Anne P. Glavin
Joyce L. Goerke
Marlene Goldman &
 Mike Ellenbecker
Don and Ingrid Graham
Great East Lake Improvement
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Dr. and Mrs. Paul Guyre
Charles and Ethel Hamann
Richard and Rebecca Hawkins
Wesley and Janan Hays
Kathleen Hedberg
Linda and Mark Heminway
Mrs. Robert R. Hendrick
Barbara Hendricks
Judith Hess Family Fund
John and Cindy Hilson
Dave and Melanie Hoffman
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Blake Ireland, Jr.
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Mr. and Mrs. Daniel L. Jackson
Betsy Janeway
Eliot Johnson & Rachel Willwerth
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kahn
Adria and Stan Katz
Joan G. Kinne
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Lucille and Greg Lacombe
Lakes Region Ice Racing Club
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Curtis and Patricia Ley
David Litchfield
Karl J. Liwo &
 Elizabeth McNamara Liwo
Bud and Terri Lynch
David and Leslie Lynch
Scott MacKay & Elizabeth Meyer
Clearwater Campground
Catherine Mann
Matt and Missy McGinnes
Merrymeeting Lake Association
David and Ruth Michael
Laurence F. and Marian H. Miller
Gertrude B. Morgan
Morgan Stanley
Debra and Carl Moskey
Bruce C. Newton &
 Judy Sperling-Newton
James and Beverly Nyce
Kathy Olson

Jeannie Pearce & Eric Gibson
Tim and Greta Perry
Pine River Pond Association
Pleasant Lake Preservation Assoc.
Linda Price
Province Lake Association
Carole Purse
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Robbins, III
John and Anne Rollins
Andrew and Robin Schirrmeister
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Seabury, II
Mrs. Debra Sedgwick
Greg Spurr
Brie Stephens
Ed and Louanne Stephenson
Robert and Prudence Sternin
Robert and Carol Stewart
Mike and Nan Stolpinski
Mahra Teikmanis
Sarah C. Thorne
United Way of Rhode Island
Francie and Carl Von Mertens
Dr. Dennis and Irena Wachs
Charles Walcott
Stanley Wallerstein
Priscilla B. and Timothy R. Wells
Maynard Wheeler
Laurie and Doug Whitley
Rachel Williams & Ken Mahl
Stephen Young
John and Kathleen Zenker
Carol Zink & Richard Chou

\$250 to \$499

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Robert Alexander
Richard Allmendinger &
 Teresa Jordan
Jennifer Ampuja
Lauren and David Anderson
Nancy Anderson
Kevin and Helen Ash
MaryAnn Avery & Rick Hill
Ernest and Barbara Bainton
Lisa Bartlett
Andrea and Todd Bates
Ronley Bates
Dottie Bauer
Penelope Beal &
 Sheldon Pennoyer
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Alfred and Lorraine Brown
Stephen Burtchell & Kate Kelly
Peter and Gail Byeff
Lloyd and Lynne Byrne
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Jocelyn Chertoff
Bernie and Donna Christopher

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Crystal Lake Improvement Assoc.
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Jorge and Mary Dominguez
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Sarah Downs & Jim Bowie
Kathryn and Mitch Drew
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Jeb and Edith Eddy
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Janet Englund & Jennifer Gentry
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David and Julie Fagan
Kathleen and Patrick Feely
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Bruce and Carolyn Field
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Mark Freeman
Patricia Freysinger
Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. Frisch
Allan and Judy Fulkerson
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Gallagher
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Christina Good
Nancy Goodman
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Barbara Nan Grossman
George and Susan Gurney
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Halperin
Peter and Dorothy Hare
Bob and Tori Haring-Smith
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Hayward and Company
Jane Hearn
Bernd Heinze
Jane Hilder & Bob Williams
Mr. and Mrs. Derek Hunt
Ms. Jean C. Ingwersen
Arthur, Sandra and Sarah Irving
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Christy James & Alan Wheeler
Jeff Good Landscaping
Bruce Jordan
James Jovenich
Peter Kain
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Donald and Phebe Kirkham
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Sister Spirit Books
Lake Kanastka Watershed Assoc.
Lake Winona Improvement Assoc.
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Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Lauterwasser
Ronald G. Lawler & Peggy Merritt
Norman LeBlanc
Robert and Sarah LeRoy
Pete Lewis and Joanne Kelly
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Roman Lubynsky & Karen Golz
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Ms. Elizabeth Mahan
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Neal and Melanie McKnight
Donald McNeil
Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. McNitt
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Metzger
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 Dr. Sara M. Lewis
Heather Miller
David and Donna Mitchell
Charles and Gail Moizeau
Sy Montgomery & Howard Mansfield
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Josephine Nixon
Cliff and Ellen Noreen
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Sandra Occhipinti
Debra O'Connell
Dan O'Neill
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Karen and Rick Palma-Halliday
Robin Palomares
Estelle Parsons & Peter L. Zimroth
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Juliana Phillips
Erick and Tracey Piper
Leslie Pires
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Mrs. Susan H. Pratt
David and Patricia Pruden
William Puddicombe

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Michael and Judy Rich
Sheila and Dan Robusto
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Roland Park Association
Sanbornton Bay Association
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Randal Wills
Mrs. Jean Wilson
Windy Waters Conservancy
Kim Wisckol
Wood & Clay, Inc.
Elizabeth and Bill Woodard
Charles Woodard and
Lisa Eggleston
Dr. Carey York-Best
Carolyn Zamora
Andrew and Kimberly Ziegele

\$100 to \$249

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Ms. Miriam Adkins
Edwin (Ted) L. Adriance
Ronald Albert
Mr. Theodore M. Aldrich
Mr. and Mrs. Aaron D. Alexander
Richard Alimenti
Judith Allen
Alan E. Alterman
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Thomas and Susan Amlicke
Dea Angiolillo
Mr. Hugh T. Antrim
Bette Arey
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Ms. Judith Arms &
Mr. Stanley M. Sorscher
Betts and C.D. Armstrong
Charles Ash
Cristina Ashjian
Deborah Ayers
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Kathryn Bacastow & Peter Bearor
Christine and George Bachrach
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Angela Bartelt
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Shannon Clark
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Tom and Susan Coolidge
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Jody Cooper
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Rev. and Mrs. James Crawford
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Mr. and Mrs. Kent Cromwell
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Terence and Edna Dancy
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William and Jessica Davis
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Wijnie de Groot
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Deering Lake Improvement Assoc.
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Pat and John Dowst
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Maureen Dryja
Circe Dunnell
Mr. John Dustin
Janice Eaton
John and Gail Edie
John and Ann Edson
Dr. Kenneth &
Mrs. Claudette Edwards
Ann and Jonathan Edwards
Jane Eiras
Beatrice Eldon
Midge and Tim Eliassen
Chris Elliot
David Elliott
Susan Elliott
Empire Fisheries, LLC
Sue Engelmann
Robert and Alfreda Englund
Joanne Enos
Michael Epstein &
Kaethe Schumacher
Jennifer Esten
Sue and Paul Etkind
Lucille Evans
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Thomas Evans
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Anita B. Fahy
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Holly Fitzpatrick
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Granite Lake Association
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Winslow Green
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John Hawes and Emily Barclay
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Suzanne Higley
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Mr. Douglas Hill &
Ms. Alexandra T. Breed
Patricia Hitchcock
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Jerel and Eunice Jackson
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Hilary Jericho
Jocassee Lake Tours
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Erin Jospe
Spencer and Susan Joyner
Bill Judkins
Charles Christopher Jurack
Mr. Richard Kamp &
Ms. Linda Lorden
Richard and Regina Kaplan
Kathleen Kaye
Dr. Kelly Keenan
Beth Keene
Tim Keith and Bill Petry
Ann Kelley, Wentworth RE
Appraisal Services, LLC
Kellogg Family
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Jay and Janet Kenty
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Kathleen Kiely
Kingston Lake Association
Kingswood Camp
Kingswood Lake Association
Dr. Jack Kirk
Ralph M. Kirshner
Thomas and Heather Kirwin
Ms. Heidi Barrett-Kitchen
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Ronald and Victoria Koron
Gael Kourafas
John and Margie Kreitler
Jennie Kuckertz
Christine Kuhlman
Christine D. Kuhn
Sharon Kulp
Peter Kuniholm
Jerrold Kuntz
Phil and Donna LaCasse
David LaCoste & Trish Campbell
Ladies on the Lake
Beverly LaFoley
Lake Massasecum Improvement
Association
Lake Todd Village District
Lake Wicwas Association, Inc.
Lake Winnisquam Drive Assoc.
Robert and Maureen Lamb
Karen Lander
Carol Landroche
Kate and Joe Landry
Lanes End, Inc.
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Jeff and Pat Lapworth
Bob and Sylvia Larsen
Walter "Chip" Larson
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Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Laverack
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Bruce and Linda Ledig
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Nancy Lewis
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Dean Malouta & Rose Hache
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Robin Obey
Pat O'Brien
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Cynthia Olson
Opechee Garden Club
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Esther Pappas
Mr. Northam Parr &
Ms. Cynthia Perry
James Pashturro

Maria Patterson
Leslie and William Patton
Lindsay Paul
Dr. David Pawlowski
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Don and Barbara Picard
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Nancy Polin
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Cate Poole
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Jean Rich
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Ms. Sarah Richards
Ed and Susan Richter
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Ricker
David Ries
Susan Rizzuto & Chris Maurer

Mr. Louis Roberts
Susan and Warren Rockwell
Malcolm and Sheryll Ross
Allyson Ross
Jean Rosseau
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen R. Rounds
Rowley and Associates, P.C.
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Ruhm
Rosemarie Rung
Peter and Virginia Russell
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Bourne Ruthrauff
Mike and Bette Ruyffelaert
R.F. Rylander
Anthony and Sandra Sabutis
Sally McGarry & Phyllis Veazey
Jim and Chris Salmon
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Nick and Gail Sanders
Dr. Albert Sandler
Mr. David Sandmann &
Ms. Janice A. Williams
Larry and Sally Sands
Joyce A. Saturley
Glenn and Sonnhilde Saunders
Don and Mary Lou Schaalman
Felicia Scherrer
Jean Schmucker
Ms. Diane Schneider
Kathie Schuster
David O. Sears
Caron Family at Seven C's Inc.
Glenn Shaw
John and Nancy Sherman
Suzan Sigmond
Catherine Simon
Ingrid Skadberg
Gary Skantze & Judith Grant
Carla M. Skinder
Gayle and David Slossberg
Scott Smith &
Kim Beardwood Smith
Janet and Jeff Smith
Betsy Snider
Vincent and Michelle Spagnuolo
Ms. Lucinda T. Spaney
Mr. Stephen and
Ms. Audrey Spaulding
Amanda and Robert Spellman
Elizabeth and Arthur Spencer
Deborah Spirio Turi
Marilyn Sponzo
Ben Sprachman
James Sprague

Kathryn Springsteen
St. James Episocopal Church
of Sunapee
Mr. and Mrs. Dick St. Onge
Daniel Stack
William Stapleton
Peter and Erin Steckler
Ms. Marisa Steele
Mr. and Mrs. Nelson C. Steiner
Kathlene Crowell Steinmuller
Marie Stephens
Nancy Steproe
Nancy and Bruce Stetson
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Catherine Stewart
Howard and Carol Stoner
Geraldine L. Strachan
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Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. Sullivan
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Kathleen Swenson
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Mary Tatem
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Stephen Waller
Sharon and James Warnat
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Loon Preservation Committee Annual Meeting Thursday, August 26, 6:30pm

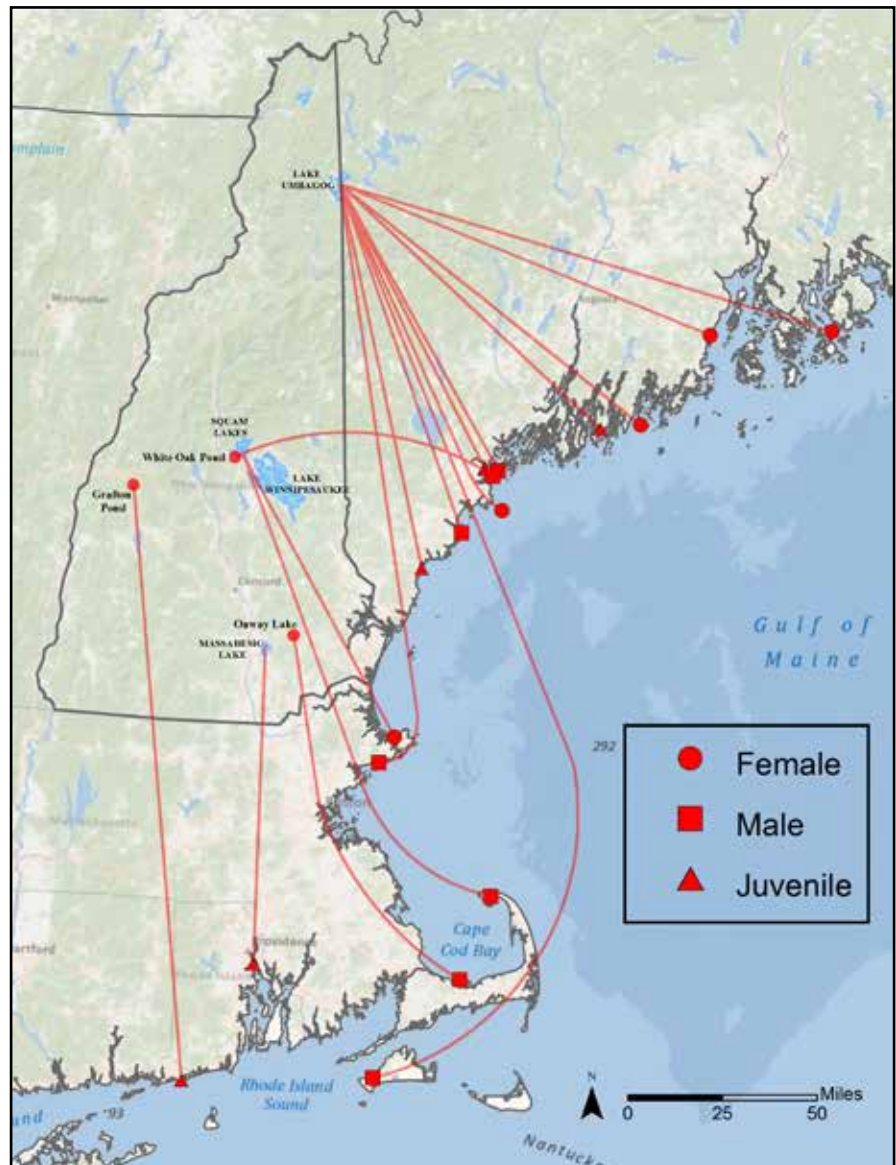
PC's Annual meeting will take place at 6:30pm via Zoom. Please go to loon.org/annual-meeting to access the Zoom Link. The meeting will be immediately followed by the End of Season Report (the last of the Summer Nature Talks) broadcast on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/LoonOrgNH/>) at 7:00pm. We hope you can join us!

continued from page 8
were banded.

Banding loons has also allowed researchers to better study loon behavior, particularly as it pertains to pair fidelity and territorial intrusions. Because of banding, we now know that loons do not mate for life, as was once widely believed. Instead, each loon seems to be more dedicated to its territory than it is to its mate. If a loon's mate loses a territorial battle to an intruding loon, the loon will accept the intruder as its new partner and allow its old mate to be kicked off of the territory. If the losing loon is banded, we are able to track where it goes after being evicted from its territory and how long it takes for it to establish a new territory and produce chicks.

Banding healthy loons can also help to improve our ability to evaluate and treat rescued loons. When we record the weight or analyze blood samples from healthy loons, we are establishing "normal" values for these health parameters. These normal values can then be compared with those of loons that have been rescued, allowing us to assess the condition that rescued loons are in, determine whether rehabilitation is necessary, and develop the optimum treatment plan. In addition, all loons that are rescued by LPC that survive and are able to be released back into the wild are banded prior to release. Banding and tracking these loons over time allows us to better understand the long-term rate of survival of rescued loons and helps us to record post-rescue reproductive output. This can help us to better understand the longer-term impacts of different types of injuries (i.e. fishing line entanglement, boat strike, lead poisoning).

Finally, resights and recoveries of banded loons on the ocean help us to determine where our loons



This map shows the locations of resights or recoveries of banded New Hampshire loons on the ocean.

go during the winter. To date, most recoveries of banded New Hampshire loons have been from the Gulf of Maine; however, some New Hampshire loons have been spotted further south, off the coasts of Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey. Because loons spend a large part of the year (5–6 months) on their oceanic wintering grounds, knowledge of where these wintering grounds are can help us gain a better understanding of the potential threats that they may face when they are not on our lakes.

What are the risks of banding loons?

In some bird species, concerns have arisen around the practice of banding. For instance, concerns have been raised about the potential negative impacts that the added weight of bands might have on hummingbirds and songbirds that migrate great distances. However, to date we have found no evidence that suggests that band weight is a problem for loons. Because of their large size (New Hampshire loons can weigh up to 15 pounds) and short migration

distance (our current understanding is that the large majority of New Hampshire loons winter off the New England coast), the relatively light weight of the bands (a few grams) has not seemed to negatively impact loons during migration.

In any banding operation, there is always the possibility of stress or injury to birds. LPC biologists' primary concern during banding is the safety of the loons, and we constantly monitor loons when we have them in hand for signs of distress. One out of every four loon chicks hatched in the state does not survive to fledging for a number of reasons, including predation, sibling rivalry, or aggression from an intruding loon. We will not band in a territory that we know is receiving significant pressure from an intruding loon in order to minimize the chance that the stress of banding will contribute to the loss of a chick to an intruding loon. While it cannot be completely eliminated, the risk of banding loons is small, and the knowledge derived from banding is vital to our efforts to understand loons and recover a viable loon population in New Hampshire. Banding has been an important tool for loon conservation, both within and outside of New Hampshire, and it is an essential part of the work that we do at the Loon Preservation Committee.

~Caroline Hughes

Literature Cited:

Piper, W., J. Mager, and C. Walcott. 2011. Marking Loons, Making Progress: Striking discoveries about the social behavior and communication of common loons are revealed by a low-tech approach: individual marking of study animals. *American Scientist* 99 (3): 220-227.

LPC Broadcasts Two Live Loon Cams in 2021

As we have done in recent years, LPC will broadcast two Live Loon Cams in 2021. Loon Cam 1 will focus on a different pair than we have shared with the public in past years. This pair consists of two loons who were both banded in the year 2013. They have remained together and have hatched 8 chicks in the years since they were banded. This nest will likely run from early June through early July.

Loon Cam 2 will focus on the same pair that we have been

broadcasting since 2018. This pair consists of a male loon that was originally banded in 2006 and a female that was banded for the first time in 2017. These loons have been together since 2017 and have hatched 5 chicks together. This loon pair has historically nested from mid-June through mid-July.

To watch the Loon Cams, visit loon.org/looncam. To see highlights from the Loon Cams, visit LPC's YouTube channel – loon.org/looncenter.

~Caroline Hughes

“Bloom” Team Sets New Record

The Tamworth Area Birdathon/Bloomathon is the longest-continuously-running birdathon in New Hampshire. May 20th provided ideal weather this year: sunny, not cold, but with gradual warming that helped extend bird activity to late morning – and with little wind. Recent warmth brought out insects and blooms. The birding teams were out all over, from Center Ossipee and the pine barrens through Sandwich and Moultonboro and the lakes to the Sandwich Range. While the birders were short of the B/B record count of 127 (in 2013), the Blooms Team set a new record: 86 unique ephemeral blooms in all colors – herbaceous, tree, and shrubby. This year's new total B/B record was 205 species!

This year's “Bird” team included: Ned Beecher, Lucy Gatchell, Tiffany Grade, Lynne Hart, Ken Klapper, Jane Rice, Bob Ridgely, and Tony Vazzano; and the “Bloom” team: Chris Clyne, Lucy Gatchell, Ingrid Albee, Juno

Lamb, John Cooley, Tony Vazzano, Lynne Hart, Ned Beecher, and Jane Rice. If you would like a detailed listing of birds and blooms, please call or email Holly Heath at 603-476-5666/hheath@loon.org. You can support the event by sending a check to LPC or using the “Donate” tab on www.loon.org. Your gift will help loons and provide funding for the Lakes Region Chapter of NH Audubon's free winter talks held at The Loon Center.

~Ned Beecher, Lakes Region Chapter of NH Audubon



Beyond Squam: Contaminants in New Hampshire Loons

When you think about contaminants in New Hampshire's loons, you might think about Squam Lake—and rightfully so. It's now been almost 15 years since LPC first discovered concerning levels of contaminants in inviable loon eggs from failed nests on Squam, and much of our contaminants research has focused on working to understand contaminant levels and sources on Squam and what happened there. But as we tested more eggs from other lakes in New Hampshire, we found that Squam was not alone in having elevated levels of contaminants.

LPC initially tested eggs from lakes other than Squam to serve as a point of comparison to help understand the levels of contaminants we were seeing on Squam Lake. Given the expense of testing eggs (over \$3,000 per egg), LPC by necessity tested relatively few eggs from non-Squam lakes. Since 2014, however, we have systematically tested several eggs per year from lakes other than Squam to monitor contaminant levels in loons statewide. And what we have found has been both surprising and a reason for concern.

LPC now has 28 eggs tested from 23 lakes other than Squam, representing 27 different loon territories and spanning the years 1997-2019, although most of the eggs are from 2014 on. We tested the eggs for PFAS (stain guards, firefighting foam), BDEs (flame retardants), PCBs (industrial insulating/cooling agents), and DDT and its breakdown product DDE and chlordane, among other pesticides. All of these classes of contaminants were found in all New Hampshire loon eggs that we tested.

Let's briefly explore the results.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

To date, the standout spot for PFAS in loon eggs is in the far southeastern corner of the state, at Canobie Lake and nearby Arlington Mill Reservoir, followed by Lake Winnepesaukee (Fig. 1). Levels of total PFAS at Canobie and Arlington Mill are up to 4.4 times the statewide mean, and levels of PFOS (a major type of PFAS in bird eggs) are up to 9 times the lowest observed effects level (i.e., the lowest level demonstrated to cause negative health or reproductive impacts) on other bird species, as impacts on loons are unknown. Statewide, 60% of eggs exceeded these effects levels from other bird species.

Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (BDEs)

Squam Lake continues to be the standout lake for BDEs, with a mean nearly twice that of other lakes. Mean levels on Squam reached their highest level in the years 2005-2007 (Fig. 2), years of critical decline in the Squam loon

population, although it is not clear whether BDEs played a substantial role in this decline. Also, there were only a few eggs available for testing from Squam during these years, so it is not clear whether BDE levels were in fact significantly higher than in other years. Overall, 51% of eggs across the state exceeded effects levels of BDEs for other bird species.

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)

Squam Lake, Lake Francis, and Merrymeeting Lake had the highest levels of PCBs in our dataset, with levels of total PCBs up to 6.5 times the statewide mean (Fig. 3). Levels of PCBs in Squam loon eggs and in areas of sediments in the Squam watershed identified by LPC prompted the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to test fish in Squam Lake to investigate potential risks to human health from consuming fish from Squam. NHDES found high levels of PCBs in Squam fish, resulting in a stringent fish consumption advisory for Squam (see the

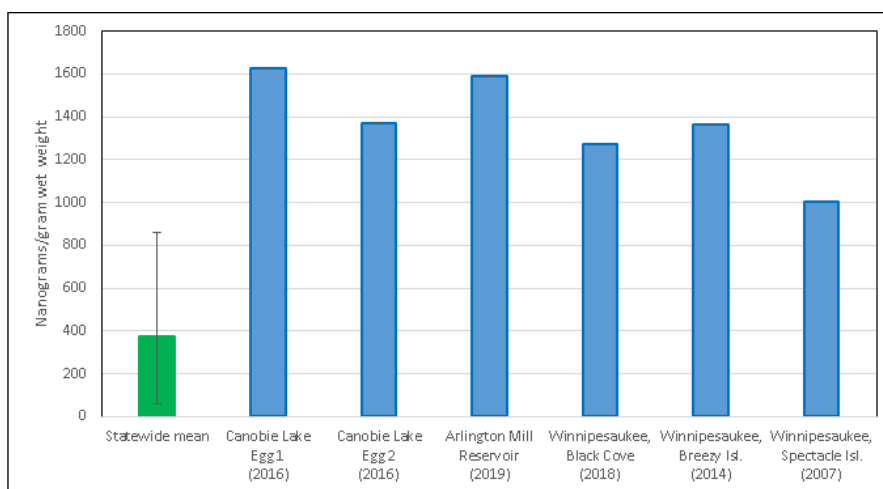


Fig. 1: Total PFAS in inviable loon eggs from failed nests in New Hampshire. The error bar on "Statewide mean" indicates the range of contaminant levels in loon eggs, excluding the other eggs represented on the graph.

Summer 2020 Loon Preservation Committee Newsletter, www.loon.org).

Dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene (DDE) and chlordane

DDE, a breakdown product of dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) that is the dominant form of DDT in bird eggs, was highest on Lake Sunapee, nearly 2.5 times the level of the statewide mean. Thirty-three percent of statewide eggs exceeded the lowest effects level for other bird species, although levels considerably higher than levels in our dataset were not associated with negative effects on productivity in a study on Common Loons from 1980. On average, DDT accounted for 85% of the pesticides we tested in loon eggs. Another pesticide, chlordane, generally occurred in low levels throughout the state and was below effects levels in other species.

Where do we go from here?

The results of these contaminant tests are concerning on multiple levels. LPC has identified isolated lakes with elevated levels of contaminants, but just how many lakes are there like this? LPC has only been able to test a limited number of eggs, to date eggs from just 11.3% of lakes with occupancy by a loon pair. This is not enough to determine the extent of contamination in New Hampshire's lakes. Loons are important indicators of the health of aquatic ecosystems – and, as demonstrated by NHDES's PCB fish consumption advisory on Squam, even potential indicators of risks to human health. LPC is currently the only organization in the state systematically testing for these contaminants in a species high up on aquatic food chains. These contaminant levels are reason for concern, and more testing

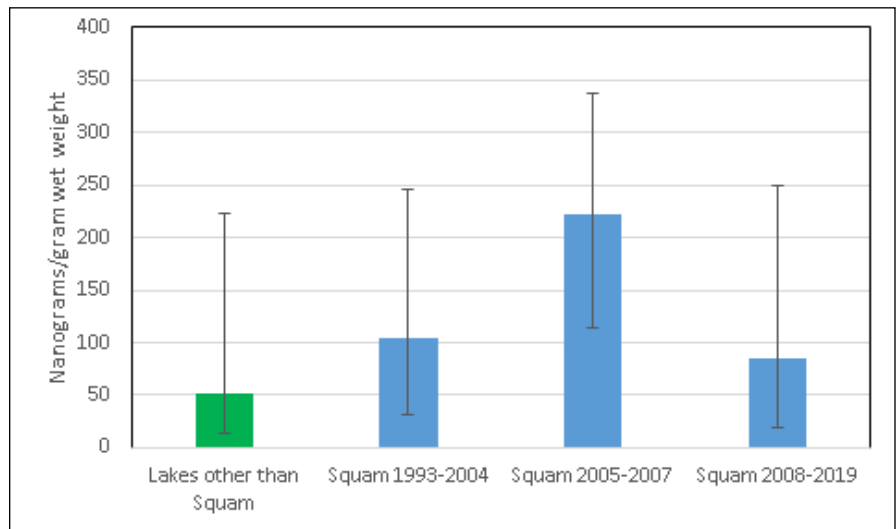


Fig. 2: BDEs (flame retardants) in loon eggs over time on Squam Lake vs. other lakes in New Hampshire. Error bars indicate the range of contaminant levels in loon eggs.

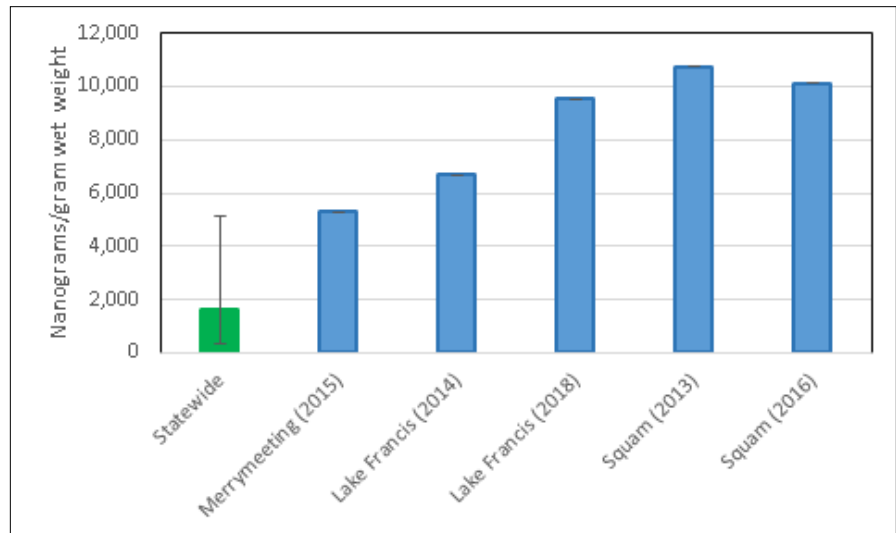


Fig. 3: PCB levels in New Hampshire loon eggs. The error bar on "Statewide mean" indicates the range of contaminant levels in loon eggs, excluding the other eggs represented on the graph.

is needed to better understand the extent, levels, and distribution of these contaminants and the potential risks to wildlife and human health.

Once contaminants are identified in a lake, then what? Efforts to identify sources of contaminants and options for potential mitigation are complex, and extensive testing is needed to determine the best alternatives for dealing with contamination at a given site or whether the best

option is to simply leave the contaminated site alone. Further resources are needed at the state level to assist in addressing non-point source contamination in lakes.

LPC will continue to test inviable loon eggs from failed nests throughout the state to monitor contaminant levels, and we will be conducting further research to investigate potential impacts of contaminants to loon productivity.

continued on page 20

continued from page 19

ity. As we carry out this research and testing, we will continue to work with NHDES and NH Fish & Game for the health of New Hampshire's loons and aquatic ecosystems.

~Tiffany Grade

For more information, please see LPC's new report, [Contaminants in Loon Eggs in New Hampshire](#), available at www.loon.org. You can also view a presentation on this subject on LPC's YouTube channel.

LPC would like to thank everyone who has made the egg testing possible: supporters of LPC's Squam Lake Loon Initiative and Loon Recovery Plan, the Squam Environmental Preservation Fund, Canobie Lake Protective Association, Lake Sunapee Protective Association and residents of Lake Sunapee, the Davis Conservation Fund, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We also thank NH Department of Environmental Services for their investigation into contaminants in fish on Squam Lake.

Un-leading Loons

Last summer, despite a large increase in the number of anglers on our lakes, New Hampshire's count of lead-poisoned loons continued to decline. LPC volunteers and biologists collected four lead-poisoned loons last year, three adults and one juvenile; four loons too many, but only half of the average number of lead-killed loons at the peak period of loon deaths from 1996 to 2000. This welcome drop indicates that our state-wide law on the sale and freshwater use of lead fishing sinkers and jigs weighing one ounce or less (the size most often ingested by loons) and LPC's Lead Tackle Buyback Program are having their desired effect of ensuring that more loons are living and breeding on our lakes, instead of being necropsied in LPC's laboratory.

We are continuing our efforts to decrease this leading, and entirely avoidable, cause of loon deaths. A central part of this work is our Lead Tackle Buyback Program. The generous support of LPC donors and foundations including the Howell Conservation Fund, Inc., and the Alex C. Walker Foundation has allowed us to offer \$10 vouchers to anyone submitting an ounce or more of banned tackle to any one of a number of participating businesses to help anglers purchase non-toxic, loon-safe tackle. This year we will also once again offer cash prizes as incentives to clean out old tackle boxes – \$200 and \$100 awards to those submitting the largest and next-largest haul of banned tackle to each participating shop and a \$500 Grand Prize for the largest trade-in statewide. Since its inception the Lead Tackle Buyback Program has forever removed over 25,000 pieces of lead tackle as a threat to loons and other lake wildlife, and this year we will continue to build on this groundbreaking work. Please visit our LoonSafe.org website for contest details and ways to safely dispose of this deadly tackle to keep our loons un-led. Happy safe fishing this summer!

~Harry Vogel

Sign Up for the E-Newsletter!

Would you like to keep up with New Hampshire's loons and the work of LPC throughout the year? Get news sent straight to your inbox by subscribing to our E-Newsletter! The E-Newsletter is sent monthly from September–April, and more frequently during the peak loon breeding season, from May through August. To subscribe, please visit <https://loon.org/newsletter/> and fill out the form on the right-hand side of the page.

The Loon Center will continue to serve as a participating retail location for our 2021 Lead Tackle Buyback program. Drop off one ounce or more of illegal lead fishing tackle (lead sinkers and lead-headed jigs weighing one ounce or less) and receive a \$10 voucher that can be used in The Loon's Feather Gift Shop! Lead poisoning from ingested lead fishing tackle is the largest cause of documented adult loon mortality in New Hampshire, and it is entirely preventable. Turn in your lead tackle, and you might just save a loon's life!



LPC's Facilities Expand to Fit Its Mission

LPC Trustees and staff are happy and relieved to report that the expanded and new buildings of the Loon Center Campus are substantially complete! A few important pieces, including new educational displays and exhibits, office furnishings, and landscaping are still in process, but we would like to invite all to visit our expanded Loon Center and the new Kittie and John Wilson Field Operations Center.

The Loon Center now contains new office and meeting spaces, a significantly upgraded laboratory, and dedicated storage for field program supplies and equipment and biological samples, including a much-needed walk-in freezer. The new Kittie and John Wilson Field Operations Center includes new workspaces and equipment to build rafts and signs and to maintain and store boats and other field equipment, with living quarters for LPC's seasonal biologists and veterinary interns above.

These much-needed enhancements to The Loon Center Campus are a testament to the generosity of 673 friends of loons and the Loon Preservation Committee who contributed over \$2.1 million to make them happen. LPC's Capital Campaign Committee (John Wilson, Chair, Sandy McGinnes, Vice Chair, Kristen Begor, Sandy Helve, Jeff Patterson, and Brian Reilly) and other LPC Trustees worked tirelessly to raise the funds needed as construction costs rose and as our vision for the LPC campus evolved to incorporate worthy goals like producing enough electricity to cover our heating and other energy requirements. You can even charge your electric car on us when you visit, courtesy of our solar-powered chargers.



Above: Members of the Core Building Committee are pictured in front of the Kittie and John Wilson Field Operations Center. From left: Kirsten Knell (LPC staff), Kristen Begor (Chair, BOT), Ron Baker (Chair, Building Committee), John Wilson, Bill Crangle, Harry Vogel (LPC staff).

Below: The newly expanded and renovated Loon Center.



A dedicated group of those funders met weekly as a Core Building Committee through the fall, winter, and spring to oversee construction and deal with the inevitable complexities of a building project of this size as they arose. Thank you to Ron Baker who

chaired this committee, and to John Wilson, Bill Crangle, and Kirsten Knell who ably navigated the complexities of this building project to keep us on track and on budget as we progressed through an ever-changing landscape.

continued on page 22

continued from page 21

A larger committee that also included Kristen Begor, Liz Gabel, Glyn Green, Bev LaFoley, Keith Nelson, Brian Reilly, and Bob Varney, met periodically to provide a more diverse perspective on the project. All of these efforts have resulted in a Loon Center and Field Operations Center that will support LPC's growing programs to protect and recover New Hampshire's loon population.

LPC staff wasted no time in putting our new facilities to work; The Loon Center and the Kittie and John Wilson Field Operations Center were pressed into service on April 22, Earth Day, as several intrepid groups of volunteers and staff built nesting rafts despite the flurries for use this loon breeding season, and is currently housing three seasonal Loon Preservation Committee field biologists and two Tufts University veterinary interns working on loon projects this summer.

As people once again begin to feel comfortable traveling and visiting, we will be glad to warmly welcome you to see our new facilities, learn about loons and their challenges and our work to help them, walk the trails of the Markus Sanctuary, and see our resident pair of loons (which with luck will be nesting or brooding a new pair of chicks as you read this article). Thank you to all who make this new chapter of LPC's story possible!

~Harry Vogel



The Loon Center and the Kittie and John Wilson Field Operations Center were pressed into service on April 22, Earth Day, as several intrepid groups of volunteers and staff built nesting rafts despite the flurries for use this loon breeding season. Left to right: John Cooley (LPC Senior Biologist), Joanne Grady, Deb Moskey, Lois Kessin, Rick O'Callaghan, Skip Grady.



Cathy Eastburn Photo

The raft built by volunteers on Earth Day (pictured top) is now out on a lake in western NH with a nesting loon on it, as of early June.

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

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Our heartfelt thanks go out to the following supporters of our "Spreading Our Wings" Capital Campaign:

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THE LOON LEGACY SOCIETY

Remembering Loons Now

— and Forever

The greatest reward for leaving a gift to the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) through your estate planning is the knowledge that you are helping to ensure that the haunting call of the loon will echo across New Hampshire's waters for generations to come. If you would like to receive a copy of our LOON LEGACY SOCIETY brochure, please call or email Lin O'Bara (603-476-5666/lobara@loon.org). We hope you will consider joining this special circle of friends!



2021 Summer Nature Talk Schedule

—via YouTube—

The 2021 Summer Nature Talks will be accessible through our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/LoonOrgNH/>, and are scheduled to start at 7pm.

July 8 Bill Gassman—Loon Nest Cam: Through the Lens

The Loon Preservation Committee Live Loon Nest Cam is now in its eighth season. It has come a long way in that time and now has seen viewers from all fifty states and 201 countries. Bill Gassman, LPC's volunteer Loon Cam Operator and Guru, has been a large part of this success. Join us as he shares some of the most interesting things we have seen and learned through the camera. Bill will also share some behind-the-scenes detail about how the camera works and the logistics of getting it up and running.

July 15 Iain MacLeod—Ospreys in the NH Lakes Region

2021 marks 25 years since Ospreys returned to nest in the Lakes Region. Iain MacLeod has monitored and managed the growing population since day one. Now about 16-18 pairs nest in the region, and over the quarter century he has watched more than 340 chicks fledge from local nests. Iain will discuss finding new nests in remote beaver ponds and installing nesting platforms to entice new pairs to settle. He will also share some of what he has learned from satellite tagging more than a dozen NH Ospreys and following their journeys to South America and back.

July 22 Dave Govatski—Wildlife of the White Mountains

Wildlife viewing is a favorite activity of White Mountain residents and visitors. This illustrated program features the natural history of many of our iconic species such as black bear, moose, snowshoe hare, bobcat, and American marten. Dave will introduce us to interesting insects, reptiles, amphibians, and birds that make our mountains their home. He will discuss trends in wildlife populations, such as range expansion and contraction, and provide tips on where and when to see wildlife.

July 29 Jim Vernon—Geology of the Lakes Region

This talk will focus on geologic features of the New Hampshire Lakes Region. The talk will summarize millions of years of geologic history, from mountain building, to ancient volcanoes and seas, to ice ages that led to the landscape we see today.

August 5 Chris Martin—Gray Ghosts and Old Fence Posts: Searching for Northern Harriers

Sometimes called marsh hawks, state-endangered Northern Harriers hover and glide low over open fields and marshes while hunting voles, snakes, and frogs. Their low buoyant flight, upswept wings, and white rump patch are very distinctive. NH Audubon partners with NH Fish & Game to find harrier breeding areas and document nest outcomes. For more than three decades, NH Audubon raptor biologist Chris Martin has recruited, trained, and supervised an enthusiastic corps of volunteer field observers who monitor state endangered and threatened birds of prey all across the state.

August 12 Mark Pokras—Wondrous and Strange Loons

Over the last 100+ years there's been an amazing amount of research on Common Loons. But interestingly enough, nearly all of it has been looking at loons from the outside—studying their behavior, migrations, and vocalizations. Tonight we'll discuss how little is known about Common Loons from the inside—their anatomy and physiology—and describe some of the research challenges for the future.

August 19 Jim Paruk—Loon Lessons: Uncommon Encounters with the Great Northern Diver

Jim Paruk is a Professor of Biology at St. Joseph's College, in Maine, and has been studying Common Loons across North America for the past 28 years. He has published over 25 scientific articles on loons and recently wrote a book, Loon Lessons: Uncommon Encounters with the Great Northern Diver (University of Minnesota Press), that takes an evolutionary approach to understanding their behavior and life history strategy.

August 26 John Rockwood & Harry Vogel—End of Season Loon Report

Wildlife photographer John Rockwood will share photos and video of local loon families from two southern NH lakes, 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 NH this year.

Save paper and send us your sightings on-line! You can submit this form at www.loon.org/census.php



New Hampshire Loon Census
Saturday, 17 July 2021
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 bald eagle sightings during this hour & the loons' response (i.e. vocalizations):

- (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 25 TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL TALLY.

Please return this form to the LPC: PO Box 604, Moultonborough, NH 03254,
or you can fax it 603-476-5497 or email it to volunteers@loon.org.

If you were part of a coordinated census effort on a larger lake, please send this form to your coordinator so they can send the forms in all together.

Loon Preservation Committee
PO Box 604
Moultonborough, NH 03254

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