



Loon Preservation Committee

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

APRIL 1, 2020 - MARCH 31, 2021

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.

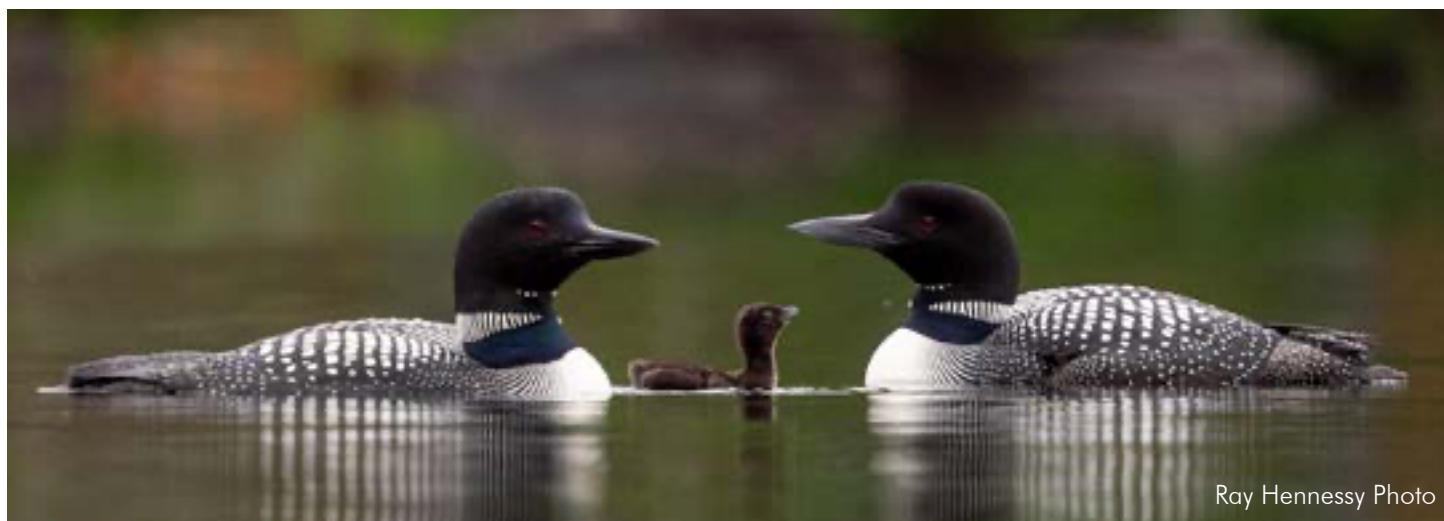
Last year at this time I reported that our Spreading Our Wings Capital Campaign to expand LPC's Moultonborough facilities and build on our successful work was proceeding in a very positive direction. It is with great joy and gratitude that I announce the successful conclusion of the Loon Preservation Committee's Capital Campaign and major construction work after reaching our goal!

Thanks to many donors (673 in total), LPC raised over \$2.1 million for the Spreading Our Wings Campaign, providing us with the resources to renovate, expand, and modernize The Loon Center, and to construct and equip the new Kittie and John Wilson Field Operations Center. Though we're still waiting for a few pieces of equipment and furnishings and new educational exhibits, and still working our way through a couple of outstanding punch list items, the buildings are essentially completed – and we could not be happier with them.

Most importantly, the new LPC campus has been in high gear this summer, supporting our work to protect loons and restore New Hampshire's loon population. Our summer biologists and veterinary interns, led by our year-round staff, have made impressive use of our improved facilities, while monitoring, managing, and rescuing loons throughout the state, attending to injured or deceased loons in our laboratory, and properly storing biological samples in our state-of-the-art walk-in freezer. We continue to ask ourselves: How did we ever get by without these facilities?

Thank you for helping us to write this exciting new chapter of LPC's work to preserve these remarkable birds.

Kristen F. Begor, Chair



Ray Hennessy Photo



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:

The Fiscal Year Ended March 31st of 2021 was a year like no other at the Loon Preservation Committee, for a number of reasons. April of 2020 began with LPC staff working from home because of both Covid-19 and the ceaseless sounds of construction as our expanded Loon Center and our new Kittie and John Wilson Field Operations Center took shape on the Markus Sanctuary grounds.

Separation and isolation made all of our tasks, from the routine to the extraordinary, more difficult as we readied ourselves for another field season to help loons – a field season we were not even sure could happen amidst Covid concerns. It did happen though, with remote recruitment, training, and oversight of our seasonal field biologists. In fact, our volunteers and field staff surveyed a record number of lakes in the summer of 2020, and counted a record number of loons, including a record number of loon chicks hatched from our loon nesting rafts – proof that our monitoring, research, management, and education to support loons is working.

The many challenges of carrying out field work in a pandemic were mirrored in other aspects of LPC's operations: the Loon Festival, the Summer Gala, the Carl Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament, and the Holiday Open House were all casualties of Covid. The same was true of in-person presentations at lake association meetings and other venues to talk about loons, challenges facing loons, and LPC's work to support them. These were replaced, in large part, by our new and expanded website at loon.org, Zoom and YouTube loon presentations and Thursday Night Nature Talks, and a remote Annual Meeting. Phone and email shop orders and curbside pickup were a poor substitute for welcoming visitors to The Loon Center, but in the summer of 2020 we were able to open to masked visitors, even if the number we could invite in at any time was limited.

LPC applied for and secured a Paycheck Protection Program loan and applied for a second PPP loan, which was also granted. These forgivable loans helped us navigate the fiscal year in good financial as well as mission health. But our most important support by far was the help of our members and friends, who, realizing that LPC and other organizations were struggling with the difficulties of Covid, gave generously to provide some certainty for our future.

We will continue to rely on our proven and time-tested management techniques as well as pioneering new methods and new research to face the challenges, old and new, that we know are coming. We are grateful for your continued support of our work; the ongoing recovery of New Hampshire's loons will continue to depend on it, and on LPC's strong foundation of success and fiscal responsibility.

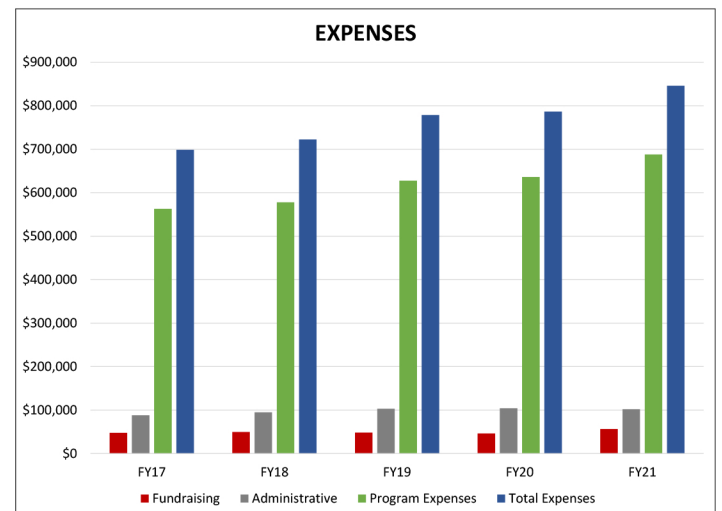
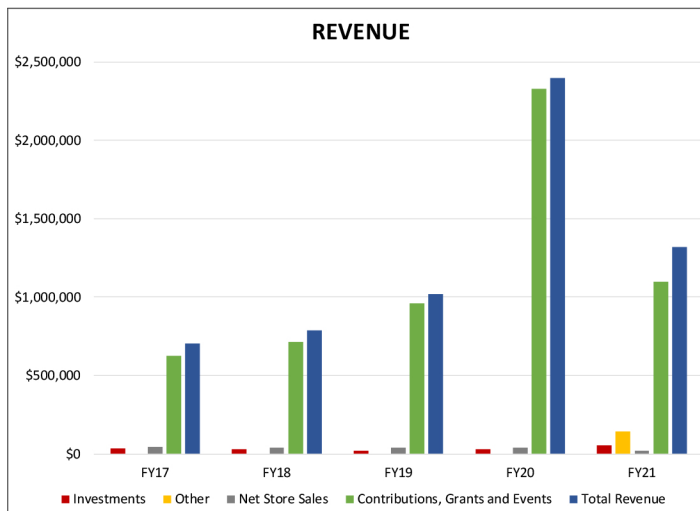
Harry S. Vogel,
Senior Biologist/Executive Director

Population and Productivity:					
	<u>FY17</u>	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u>
Territorial Loon Pairs	294	296	309	313	321
Nesting Pairs	208	202	226	221	216
Chicks Hatched	200	168	224	193	203
Chicks Surviving to mid-August	147	126	157	148	156

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

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

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21
Revenue:					
Contributions, Grants and Events	\$627,291	\$710,453	\$959,380	\$2,328,325*	\$1,098,165
Store Sales, Net Cost of Goods	\$43,070	\$40,013	\$38,894	\$37,952	\$22,385
Investments	\$34,576	\$31,770	\$19,657	\$28,768	\$54,487
Other (PPP1, Energy Rebates, etc.)	—	—	—	—	\$144,066
Total Revenue	\$704,937	\$782,236	\$1,017,931	\$2,395,045	\$1,319,103
<i>*Includes gifts received during the silent phase of the capital campaign</i>					
Expenses:					
Program Expenses	\$563,088	\$578,166	\$627,733	\$636,374	\$688,111
Administrative	\$88,141	\$94,855	\$103,132	\$104,337	\$108,672
Fundraising	\$47,601	\$49,053	\$48,182	\$46,166	\$49,390
Total Expenses	\$698,830	\$722,074	\$779,047	\$786,877	\$846,173
Increase in Net Assets:	\$6,107	\$60,162	\$238,884	\$1,608,168	\$472,930



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.



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.

The New and Expanded Loon Center Campus



The expanded Loon Center includes new office and meeting spaces, an upgraded laboratory, and dedicated storage for field supplies and biological samples, including a walk-in freezer.



The new Kittie and John Wilson Field Operations Center includes work spaces and equipment to build nesting rafts and signs, maintain and store boats, and store field equipment and supplies. It also provides living quarters for LPC's seasonal field biologists and veterinary interns.



Shoppers browse in the expanded and re-envisioned Loon's Feather Gift Shop. Proceeds from shop sales directly support LPC's mission.



Tufts Veterinary Intern Jillian Hojsak, LPC Volunteer and Outreach Biologist Caroline Hughes, and Lakes Region Biologist Jayden Jech process blood samples from banded loons in the completely re-designed and re-outfitted Loon Center laboratory.



The Loon Preservation Committee Board of Trustees meets in the new Loon Center Library/Conference room.

The "Spreading Our Wings" Capital Campaign provided LPC staff with the new, expanded, and improved facilities needed to carry out our important work of protecting New Hampshire's loons.