



LOON PRESERVATION COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2023



Ray Hennessy Photo



The Loon Preservation Committee
183 Lee's Mill Road, PO 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.

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Loon Pond

Last year the Loon Preservation Committee was approached by noted New Hampshire author and historian Glenn Knoblock to collaborate on a book about loons and LPC's work to help them. It's a good story, with many ups and downs, and we have been working these many years to engineer a worthy ending, so we are pleased to be working with him to chronicle our history.

One of the many loon anecdotes in Glenn's book is the story of Loon Pond in Gilmanton. The name suggests a history of loons there, and Glenn found an account dating back to 1845 that claimed it was named "for the waterfowl of that name, which formerly abounded upon its shores." The "formerly" in that statement is sobering; even in 1845 our impacts on loons were being felt in declining loon populations. We began our work to recover our loon population 130 years later in 1975, but it was not until last year that chicks were hatched on the lake - maybe the first time in well over a hundred years that loon chicks graced Loon Pond. This pioneering loon pair was one of 124 nesting loon pairs across the state protected by "Loon Nesting Area" signs to give them space to incubate their eggs and hatch their chicks. Protecting loon nests, providing new nests in the form of floating nesting rafts, and our myriad other management and outreach initiatives over 48 years of work are having their desired effect of bringing loons back to our lakes. It feels right to have loons back on Loon Pond.

But the story doesn't end there, because last year's unusually warm early winter weather might have contributed to the Loon Pond chicks staying on the pond too long. On December 22nd one chick finally lifted off for its first flight to the ocean just as the ice closed in to shorten the water runway it needed to take flight. But the other was trapped by the encroaching ice and had to be rescued later that same day by LPC biologists John Cooley and Caroline Hughes, with Glenn giving a helping hand - perhaps more than he bargained for when he set himself to record the history of our work to save loons! This story is as succinct a tale as I can imagine to demonstrate LPC's successes in overcoming the historical obstacles facing loons, as well as the continued need for our work to help loons overcome their new challenges. That history is a twisting and turning story with a still uncertain outcome, but I'm glad it's being recorded and I am still hopeful for that good ending.

Record warmth makes it a busy winter

The winter 2022-2023 season rounded out a busy year for loon rescues, with a series of four iced-in juvenile loons in December and seven loons in early February. Mild temperatures in December (+7 degrees Fahrenheit above the historical average) produced touch-and-go ice-ins around the state, with rescues cropping up throughout the month. The first week of the month, at Kezar Lake in Sutton, found a loon trapped close to shore by skim ice that was thick enough to deny the loon the water runway it needed to take flight but still thin enough to paddle a kayak through. On Sunapee and Winnisquam Lakes later in December and into January, loons that were initially trapped found their way to open water on the rest of the lake, or had the lake open back up with wind or warmer temperatures.

The month of January was the warmest on record in New Hampshire, 12 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than the historical average (1895-2000, National Weather Service). When the bigger lakes finally froze over in early February, LPC staff rescued a single juvenile that was being chased by eagles on Newfound, on very thin ice. And, with the help of birders who had been tracking the presence of loons on Winnepesaukee and other area lakes in the lead-up to ice-in, we spotted and rescued six loons – four adults and two juveniles – on the Broads of Winnepesaukee, over the course of two days. Assistance from the Tuftonboro Fire Department airboat crew was vital for this rescue, because the ice was so thin and the loons were trapped over a mile from shore. These conditions meant that the rescue operation

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LPC Senior Biologist, John Cooley, and Senior Biologist/Executive Director, Harry Vogel, haul rescue equipment across a frozen Winnepesaukee shoreline and a mile out onto thin ice to rescue loons stranded by ice-in in early February. The loons had molted their wing feathers and were rendered flightless.



LPC Senior Biologist/Executive Director, Harry Vogel, holds one of the rescued loons as Outreach Biologist, Caroline Hughes, takes critical measurements and blood samples. The rescue crew worked into the night.

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continued into the night, with the last few loons scooped from the icy water in the airboat spotlights. The following morning the ice had skimmed over further, allowing rescuers passage on foot. However, the warm temperatures meant that the rescues on Newfoundland and Winnepesaukee were both barely feasible, over ice only a few centimeters thick in places. The loons trapped on Winnepesaukee were a short distance from where loons were rescued in January 2022, and in other past instances (2016 and 2007). This year, there were more bald eagles stalking the trapped loons, causing them to dive constantly, and making the rescue effort a race against time.

As expected, all the adult loons rescued in February were flightless, with their wing feathers molting. As winter weather warms and becomes less predictable, citizen-science observations from the popular eBird app show that loons are lingering longer and farther north on freshwater lakes, according to loon researcher Jim Paruk. This has produced more frequent molt-migration mismatches, as Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation Director Nina Shoch terms it, leading to busier rescue seasons.

All eleven of the loons rescued in December and February were evaluated by Maria Colby at The Wings of the Dawn wildlife rehabilitation center, and cooperating veterinarians. Maria's expert care is an essential step in triaging each case. Usually, a single overnight stay provides the rescued loon a brief respite—in the form of an abundant supply of live baitfish—before release on the coast.

The same local birders who spotted loons on Winnepesaukee and Newfoundland Lake in January also tracked a small handful



LPC Senior Biologist, John Cooley, and Maria Colby of the Wings of the Dawn release one of the rescued loons on the ocean.

through February and early March on Opechee Bay, in Lacomia, which never truly froze over. These loons probably overwintered through ice-out on the available freshwater, a local example of the trends evident in the eBird data, and the trend toward diminished ice cover on lakes through-

out the northern hemisphere.

With another busy winter rescue season behind us, it's clear that as Earth's climate continues to change rapidly, our efforts to protect and conserve these beautiful creatures must also evolve.

~John H. Cooley, Jr.

Why did the loon cross the road?

A call from the Meredith Police Department dispatch reported a loon entangled in monofilament on land near the waterfall at the Mill Falls Marketplace. Although we were skeptical, as loons are seldom on land, we sent a field crew out to investigate. Before they arrived, the loon started to drag itself across Route 3 towards Meredith Bay. A good samaritan, Brandon Gibb, got out of his vehicle and carried the loon to safety at Hesky Park. The loon immediately headed for the lake and was out on the water before our crew arrived. Although our crew was unable to locate the loon on the water and remove the fishing line, we were grateful that it made it safely across Route 3, thanks to Brandon!



Brandon Gibb gets out of his vehicle on Route 3 in Meredith to rescue a loon crossing the highway.

Answer: *To get to the other side, of course!*

Loon Cams continue to provide insight into the lives of loons during the breeding season

Every year without fail, LPC's Live Loon Cams provide valuable insight and information about the lives that loons lead while they are on our lakes during the breeding season. We watch them as they deal with threats ranging from natural (black flies, intruding loons, eagle predation, etc.) to unnatural (boat wakes, human recreational pressure, etc.). Through the years, we've born witness to many different outcomes – we've celebrated with the loons in the years when chicks have hatched, and mourned with them when their nest attempts have failed. Since we began streaming our Loon Cams in 2014, we have broadcasted 14 nest attempts across 4 different loon territories. Twelve of those nest attempts have succeeded, producing a total of 19 chicks. The remaining two nest attempts failed and resulted in overincubation, which occurs when the loons sit on the nest past the date when chicks should have hatched, likely because the eggs were either inviable from the start or were rendered inviable at some point during the nesting process.

As I write this newsletter article in mid-May, it's impossible to know what the summer has in store for our Loon Cam 1 and 2 loons. From what we've observed in the early season, it could be an interesting year. Through May, as many as three intruding loons have repeatedly been observed interacting with the Loon Cam 1 pair on their lake. These intrusions are likely the price of success for this pair, which has hatched chicks in 8 of the 9 years since they were banded on the lake in 2013. Research has shown that success can bring unwanted

attention from other loons that are searching for a territory of their own – young loons looking for their first territory, or loons that have been displaced from their own breeding territories. These loons take notice of which territories produce chicks and use this knowledge to target these productive territories for a takeover. There are a number of potential outcomes for the Loon Cam 1 pair:

1. The banded pair may succeed in kicking out the three intruders and be able to nest.
2. One or both members of the banded pair may be evicted from the territory after losing a fight with an intruding loon, and the 'new' pair may or may not nest. If the 'new' pair nests, they may or may not choose the historic nest site (the raft that the camera is trained on).
3. The pair may fail to evict the intruders, and the continued presence of the intruders may prevent the pair from nesting. This happened at our Loon Cam 2 site in 2021 – though the camera was set up, it was not livestreamed because the continued presence of



The chase is on! This image, captured by Loon Cam 1 in early May 2023, shows one loon chasing the other after a territorial interaction.



One loon looks on as two others wing row, a territorial display used to demonstrate the strength of each competitor.

intruders meant that ownership of the territory was unstable, and the pair did not nest.

4. The pair may fail to evict the intruders but nest anyway. Repeated interactions with intruders may cause a nest failure, or chicks may hatch but be at constant threat from the intruders.

At the time of writing, things have been looking more peaceful at the Loon Cam 2 territory. The raft was floated in mid-April, and a pair of loons has been seen together consistently ever since. The Loon Cam 2 pair has already been checking out the raft as a potential nest site, and if all goes well and they follow their historic sched-

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dule, they should begin nesting by mid-June.

By the time this newsletter is printed and distributed, much of the nesting season will have played out already, though the Loon Cam 2 pair will likely still be nesting. You can tune in to LPC's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/LoonOrgNH) to watch the end of the Loon Cam 2 nest and find a playlist of highlights from Loon Cam 1 to find out how that pair fared.

~ Caroline Hughes



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Late April in Wisconsin found loons falling from the sky! Loon fallout occurs when migrating loons develop ice on their wings and bodies during certain weather conditions. This can weigh them down and impair flight, causing them to fall to the ground. More than two dozen loons were rescued as a result of the fallout which rendered them helpless, whether on land or on water bodies too small to become airborne. While some loons were found deceased in fields and wooded areas, the majority were rescued and released. The loon pictured above was found in a cow yard after a loon fallout event. It required extra care and antibiotics as it developed infections from bacteria in the cow manure. The fall also caused some bleeding in its lungs. A good bath and feather preening were required to restore the loon's weatherproofing. The loon was treated by the Raptor Education Group, Inc., and released. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Grenzer of Loon Rescue, WI)

NASA DEVELOP team project

The NASA DEVELOP program uses teams of early-career scientists to demonstrate the use of remote-sensing data – satellite imagery – to gain insight into real-world problems.

Over the 10-week term, a team of four interns analyzed trends in water quality, climate, and land use around New Hampshire's lakes, and potential impact to loon habitat selection and productivity from those factors. Satellite imagery provides a continuous record and has a global reach, including lakes or times of year that are difficult to sample on the ground, and has a high-resolution spatial scale. This let the team hone in on specific case-study lakes. For example, the "heat island" effect of increased land surface temperatures was evident where new lakefront development had occurred, in addition to the average increase in temperature with rapid climate change.

Although the findings of the brief project just scratched the surface of the complex techniques and even more complicated ecology of these potential influences on loons, they demonstrated the power of remote-sensing to address questions central to loon biology and conservation, at the heart of ongoing research investigations in the Midwest and in New Hampshire. These same questions tie in to broader human concerns about the environment, as loons continue to serve as an indicator species for the health and integrity of the lakes and surrounding watersheds.

~John H. Cooley, Jr.

A record year for the Lead Tackle Buyback program

Lead sinkers and lead-headed lures weighing one ounce or less have been illegal to sell and to use in freshwater in New Hampshire since 2016, and there are already indicators that this law is having its desired effect of reducing lead poisoning in loons. However, we continue to see adult loons dying of lead poisoning on our lakes after consuming this now-illegal lead tackle. LPC's data shows that most loons that are dying from lead poisoning in New Hampshire have ingested now-illegal lead tackle being actively used by an angler. They have either consumed a fish that broke an angler's line or have struck at fish or tackle attached to a line as it is reeled in through the water. Many anglers may not be aware of New Hampshire's lead tackle law and may also not be aware of the negative impacts that lead tackle use can have on loons and other wildlife.

LPC's Lead Tackle Buyback program, which began in 2018, is addressing this problem by educating the public and incentivizing anglers to make the switch to non-lead, loon-safe alternatives. At participating tackle shops, anglers can exchange 1 oz. or more of illegal lead tackle for a \$10 voucher redeemable at that store. All participants are also entered into the "Collect to Protect" contest, which awards \$100 and \$50 respectively to the people who turn in the largest and second-largest amounts of eligible lead tackle at each participating store. The 2022 Lead Tackle Buyback Program proved to be our biggest year yet. We collected a record 12,472 individual pieces of now-illegal lead tackle, weighing a record total of 115.6 lbs. Any one of those pieces of tackle had the



LPC's Outreach Biologist, Caroline Hughes, collects lead tackle turned in at LL Cote in 2022.

potential to kill a loon if ingested, and we are grateful to all who took the time to clean out their tackle boxes and clear out their lead. Last year also saw an expansion in our partnerships to get the word out and collect lead tackle—LPC partnered with 28 lake associations to help educate their memberships about the threats that lead tackle poses to loons and other wildlife, and many of these lake associations also collected lead tackle at their annual meetings. We also partnered with the Lakes Region Planning Commission to collect lead tackle at their annual Household Hazardous Waste events throughout the Lakes Region of New Hampshire. Additionally, LPC's successful program has inspired similar programs by our partner organizations in New York, Maine, and Vermont. We have consulted with our peers at these organizations as they formed their programs in order to share the lessons that we

have learned over the years of our program's operation.

LPC's Lead Tackle Buyback Program is continuing and expanding in 2023. We have already begun to recruit additional participating tackle shops in order to increase our spatial coverage of the state. We will continue and expand our partnerships with lake associations and local planning commissions in order to increase the number and variety of ways that people can turn in their now-illegal lead tackle. If you are aware of a local tackle shop that may want to participate in the program, or if you are part of a lake association, conservation commission, or other local group that would like to get involved, please email us at volunteers@loon.org. Together, we can all make a difference for loons!

~Caroline Hughes

2023 FIELD STAFF SELFIES!

LAKES REGION WEST



SARAH KINICKI

A DVM candidate at the Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, Sarah has conducted nest monitoring surveys for least terns, Wilson's plovers, and American oystercatchers. She is ready to put her clinical skills to work at LPC!

PEMIGEWASSET



WILL KROHN

Will is a recent graduate of Colgate University, with a BA in Biology and Environmental Studies. He was a communications intern for the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation, working with the public to better protect loons.

LAKES REGION EAST



SANNE DONESKI

Sanne is a junior at the University of Montana where they major in Environmental Science and Sustainability. As a lover of birds and paddling, they already have their sights set on graduate research in avian science and watershed restoration.

SEACOAST



ETHAN HOBBS

Ethan is a Wildlife Biology student at Colorado State University (Spring 2024). He recently served as a lab member at the CSU Listening Lab where he used R software to interpret audio from national parks to assess noise pollution.

MONADNOCK



SAM ARNOLD

After earning a BS in Environmental Science from Lafayette College, Sam will attend William and Mary this fall to pursue an MS in Biology – specifically shore-bird ecology. He is eager to expand his strong interest in bird conservation.

SUNAPEE



DYLAN RICKER

Dylan is pursuing a BS in Marine Biology from Eckerd College (Spring 2024). He had the unique opportunity to work as an intern at the Dartmouth College Octopus Lab where he used tracking software to monitor octopus movement data.

NORTH COUNTRY



MICHELE ADAMS

A senior at the University of New Hampshire in Wildlife & Conservation Biology, Michele has a keen interest in ornithology, avian ecology, habitat restoration, and disease ecology, and aspires to be a career scientist.

WINNIPESAUKEE



EVRETT FIDDIAN-GREEN

Evrett is pursuing a BA in Environmental Science from Alfred University (Spring 2024). He served as a field technician in the Outer Banks (NC) where he used auditory callback methods to survey Black Rail, a secretive marsh bird.

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

LEAD TACKLE BUY BACK INTERN



LOGAN KRAHN

Logan is a rising senior at Paul Smith's College, majoring in Wildlife & Fisheries Science with a GIS Minor. An Eagle Scout, Logan has gained extensive experience through the Boy Scouts of America, where he has served as a Patrol Leader and Assistant Scoutmaster.

OUTREACH INTERN



MELANIE CAROLAN

Melanie recently graduated from Vassar College with a BA in Earth Science and a Mathematics minor. She has previously worked as a Fisheries Science Undergraduate Research Intern at the Shoals Marine Laboratory, as well as with several Vassar professors.

TUFTS INTERN



EMILIE GURNON

Emilie is a recent graduate from Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. She grew up in downtown Boston above her family's small business hardware store, however has fond memories of escaping the city and observing loons in Northern Wisconsin every summer ever since she was young. Her wildlife clinical rotation at Tufts sparked an interest in wildlife medicine, research, and conservation, which she hopes to pursue this summer at LPC conducting research on heavy metal levels in loons using both blood samples and XRF technology.

*Summer's lease hath all too short a date.
-William Shakespeare*


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www.loon.org




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



ANNUAL LOON CENSUS
SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2023
8AM - 9AM



CENSUS FORM ENCLOSED
(SEE PAGE 23)

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Our deepest thank you to our Loon Leadership Circle members, and to all of our donors, for your generous support!

All grown up! Loon banded as chick in 2009 turns up in Maine

A picture I use in many of my presentations shows me returning a chick from Little Squam in 2009 back into the water after time spent with LPC's banding crew. As more and more years have passed since the chick was banded to allow us to uniquely identify it, whenever I see that picture I have wondered what ever happened to that chick.

Of course, I would not have expected the chick to have been resighted in the first 3 years. Loons do not mature until they are 3 years old and they spend those first years after they fledge from their natal lake out on the ocean. But after that, I hoped to hear about this loon. Loons generally do not settle far from the lake they hatched on, often within 15 miles. There are certainly some noteworthy exceptions: a loon hatched on Squam Lake in 2001 has been the long-time breeding female on Pleasant Lake, New London – a dispersal of nearly 30 miles, as the loon flies. A loon hatched on Squam in the same year settled on a lake even farther away, eventually turning up over 80 miles away on a lake in Massachusetts! For whatever the reason, Squam in 2001 produced chicks with quite a sense of wanderlust!

But what had happened to the 2009 Little Squam chick? Years passed with no report of bands to match, and I began to be resigned that the chick must not have made it. Research in Wisconsin has indicated that survival of juvenile loons to age 3 is approximately 50% (Piper et al. 2012), so there was a good chance that this chick had not survived to adulthood.

All that changed this past fall when one of our colleagues at Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) in Maine alerted LPC that

they had received photographs of a loon on Loon Pond (appropriately enough!) in Shapleigh, Maine, whose bands matched those of the Little Squam chick! The photographer noted that the loon had spent the summer on Loon Pond with another loon, who appeared to be smaller, so it appears that the former Little Squam loon is a male. This is another long dispersal, nearly 40 miles, particularly for male loons, who typically disperse shorter distances than female loons. The mate is also banded, but the complete set of bands on the mate has not yet been documented, so the identity of the mate is not yet known.



Mark Wilson Photo

That was then... LPC Squam Lakes Biologist Tiffany Grade releases the chick on Little Squam after he got his bands in 2009.

The chick is now a beautiful adult loon, but thirteen years before he was a tiny chick on the waters of Little Squam. His father was the indomitable Little Squam male, who was the territorial male on Little Squam from 2002 until

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Elaina Barker Photo

And this is now... All grown up in Maine in 2022!

LPC Hosts Northeast Loon Study Working Group

After several years of virtual meetings, the Northeast Loon Study Working Group (NELSWG) finally gathered in person at The Loon Center on March 16-17. The event boasted a jam-packed agenda, featuring over two dozen presentations, and drew a full house of enthusiastic attendees. The proceedings were also streamed live, allowing remote presenters from across the United States and Canada to participate in this hybrid gathering. As always, new projects and findings sparked captivating discussions. For instance, the group delved into topics such as loon monitoring using bioacoustic recorders in Wyoming, the influence of menhaden abundance on winter loon foraging behavior in the Chesapeake Bay, the utility of iNaturalist observations to track coastal loon mortalities, and the comprehensive analysis of LPC's own loon contaminant data, drawn from an expanded state-wide dataset. One participant from the Midwest joked that over time NELSWG has become not only a Northeastern, but really – especially with the new hybrid format – a national or North American forum for loon conservation!

~John H. Cooley, Jr.

Acknowledgements:

The Loon Preservation Committee depends on grassroots support from members, local merchants, and equipment suppliers. We appreciate discounted or donated products from Heath's Hardware, LaValley-Middleton Building Supply in Meredith, Squam Boat Livery in Holderness, Wild Meadows/Hurricane Aquasports in Center Harbor, and Vortex Optics.



New Horsepower for LPC's Work for the Loons: *The dramatic increases in LPC's monitoring, research, management, and outreach in support of loons has meant too many boats to trailer and too many kayaks, rafts, signs, and rescue kits to transport for LPC's poor overworked field truck. This new addition to LPC's fleet is sharing the burden this year and helping us keep up with the growing demands of an expanding loon population faced with increasing challenges.*

continued from page 15

his death in March of 2017 near Gloucester, Massachusetts. Originally banded as an adult in 1999 on Squam Lake, he was at least in his mid-twenties when he died. During his remarkable run on Little Squam, he hatched 15 chicks, of which 12 fledged. And now we know that one of those 12 has gone on to Loon Pond in Maine! The mother of the Little Squam/Loon Pond loon had only been banded in 2008, so we know little of her background. Sadly, late in the 2009 season, she became tangled in fishing line, was unable to be captured, and, not having been seen since, is presumed dead.

But the Little Squam chick carried the genes of his redoubtable father to Loon Pond in Maine, and hopefully he will nest and continue the legacy of success that began at Little Squam. Our colleagues in Maine are planning to survey Loon Pond this summer to check on this loon and try to confirm the identity of his banded mate. We are very grateful to the resident of Loon Pond who documented the bands on this loon and reported her sighting to BRI, so we have now added to our information about loon survival and dispersal – all things that banding can teach us. And now, as I see the picture of the chick being released to Little Squam, I no longer have to wonder what became of that chick!

~Tiffany Grade

Reference: Piper, W.H., J.S. Grear, and M.W. Meyer. 2012. Juvenile survival in common loons *Gavia immer*: effects of natal lake size and pH. *Journal of Avian Biology*

LPC welcomes Board members, and remembers Trustee Eric Taussig

We are pleased to welcome two new members to the LPC Board of Trustees. Michael Fenollosa and Dan Nye were unanimously voted in at the March 24 Board meeting, and their positions will be ratified at the August 24 Annual Meeting (see page 19 for details).

Michael Fenollosa has a life-long love of New Hampshire's Lakes Region which began as a child when his parents purchased a 150-year-old farmhouse in Gilmanton on Manning Lake (aka Guinea Pond back then) as a second home in the mid-1950's. He spent many summers enjoying all that rural life in NH had to offer as a boy. Forty-plus years ago, he and his wife, Marilyn, acquired the property from his parents and for the past 20 years have spent every summer from May to October there. One of their great pleasures has been enjoying a regular pair of loons on Manning Lake and watching their offspring grow from very tiny chicks hitching rides on their parents' backs to youngsters able to fly out in the fall before ice-in.

Michael's professional background is in finance, initially as a banker and later as a college professor.

Dan Nye grew up in Lexington, Massachusetts. He and his wife, Meagan, raised their family in California while spending summers with Dan's extensive family in Sandwich, NH. In 2016, they moved to Squam Lake in Moultonborough where they enjoy the company of loons throughout the day and listen to their beautiful calls at night. Dan and Meagan love to hike in the area and kayak on Squam. They have two daughters who are both in colleges in the northeast.

Dan spent most of his career working at technology companies in Silicon Valley and is currently managing a technology investment fund.

A Sad Passing

We were deeply saddened to learn of the unexpected passing of former LPC Trustee and friend, Eric Taussig, last fall.

Eric joined the LPC Board of Trustees in 2006, following a successful career in corporate law. He contributed countless hours of pro-bono help during his eleven-year tenure on the Board. He was an enthusiastic volunteer, faith-

fully giving his time as a loon steward at LPC's annual events. First and foremost, he was a devoted family man to his wife Marlene, son Richard, daughter Melanie, and his "four-legged" children. Eric loved animals and gave selflessly of his time and resources to help them. LPC was just one of the many organizations that benefited from his philanthropic support and soft heart. There is no question that he will be remembered throughout the Lakes Region for his generous spirit and kindness.

~Linda Egli Johnson



Ray Hennessy Photo

Welcome Ashley Keenan as Field Program Coordinator!

LPC is fortunate to have Ashley Keenan join the organization as our new Field Program Coordinator!

Ashley was LPC's Winnepesaukee field biologist last year, working an extended contract to help with the many facets of the pre- and post-field season. She came to LPC with vast boating experience, including a family-owned marina and working as a tour boat operator for the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center.

In addition to raising her three teen-aged children and three rescue dogs, Ashley is pursuing a degree in Wildlife Conservation from Unity College. She also

holds a BA in Fine Arts from the Pratt Institute, and spent many years operating her own marine upholstery business. In her "free" time she enjoys attending her kids' many sporting/extracurricular events, boating on Winnepesaukee, hiking, and watching the Celtics.

Needless to say, Ashley brings a host of skill sets to her new position as Field Program Coordinator and is ready to tackle whatever challenges come her way. We are thrilled to welcome her back in this new role at LPC!

~Linda Egli Johnson



Ashley holds a pair of loon chicks during a night of banding in 2022.

LPC's 2022 Monadnock Field Biologist, Autumn Heil, had a recent exhibit of her art at the Museum of the White Mountains, Plymouth State University, as part of her Bachelor of Fine Arts showcase. Please take a moment to read about how Autumn integrates her experience as a scientist with her artwork, and how her piece "Loon Woman" was inspired by her work as a field biologist with LPC last summer.



Loon Woman
Watercolor
32"x22"
by Autumn Heil

"Loon Woman" is inspired by my time spent working with Common Loons during the Summer of 2022 and the data I collected over three months of observation as a field biologist for the Loon Preservation Committee. Select data is represented through symbols and colors throughout the piece (Key). The anthropomorphic loon is an embodiment of female beauty, wisdom, courage, perseverance, and determination. "Loon Woman" is an ode to feminism, the strength of women, and our constant fight for rights in this country.

Key

Tan	Territorial Loon Pairs (Mated loon pairs occupying a lake or pond)
Violet	Nesting Pairs (Mated loon pairs building a nest together)
Light Blue	Loon Chicks Born
Navy Blue	Loon Chick Mortalities
Brown	Over-incubation (Loon pairs sitting on eggs past the 29-day incubation period)
Red	Adult Loon Mortalities

2023 Benefit Raffle!

Tickets \$5.00 each or 3/\$10.00



Take a chance for LOONS!

Old Town Kayak: Donated by Irwin Marine. Heron 9XT; stable, light weight, and easy to paddle.

Laser Cut Wall Art: High-quality metal plaque with color coating. Suitable indoors or outdoors; 24" x 24".

Hooked Wool Rug & Pillow by Chandler 4 Corners: 2' x 4' rug features a single loon gliding over a tranquil lake landscape. Complementary 18" pillow features a close-up portrait of a loon.

Drawing November 25; 2pm at The Loon Center

Annual Meeting August 24, 2023

The Loon Center

- | | |
|---------|---------------------------|
| 5:00 pm | Gather |
| 5:30 pm | Potluck |
| 6:45 pm | Annual Meeting |
| 7:00 pm | End of Season Loon Report |

This meeting will be held both in-person and virtually. If you would like to join us virtually, please visit <https://loon.org/annual-meeting> for information. If you plan to attend in-person and would like to participate in the potluck dinner, please email volunteers@loon.org to let us know what you'd like to bring. We hope to see you there!

Ray Hennessy Photo

Birdathon/Bloomathon sets new record!

The Tamworth area Birdathon/Bloomathon is a time-honored tradition, with the distinction of being the longest-continuously-running "Birdathon" in New Hampshire!

May 20 dawned with some clouds moving in, followed by showers, and finally rain in the mid-afternoon. But the weather did not deter the intrepid field teams who headed out early and had plenty of time to complete a record count—by two!

This year's "Bird" team included: Logan Anderson, Ned Beecher, Mary Cronin, Lucy Gatchell, Tiffany Grade, Dexter Harding, Lynne Hart, Ken Klapper, Jane Rice, Bob Ridgely (ex officio), and Tony Vazzano; and the "Bloom" team: Chris Clyne, John Cooley, Mary Cronin, Lucy Gatchell, Lynne Hart, Dexter Harding, Jane Rice, Ned Beecher, and Tony Vazzano.

Mary Cronin reported the earliest bird of the day—a Whip-poor-will waking her at 1:30 a.m. Lynne Hart's count included the elusive bittern, woodcock, and

Barred Owl, as well as the only Wood Pewee of the day. By day's end, John Cooley's report of Nodding Trillium and Dragon's Mouth Orchid, and Jane Rice's confirmed Columbine and Early Saxifrage, brought the count to a close. The bird count reached 121 and the bloom count 86, for a new total record of 207 species!

If you would like a detailed listing of birds and blooms counted, 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 as well as provide funding for the Lakes Region Chapter of NH Audubon's free winter talks held at The Loon Center.



Durrell Godfrey

Loon Talks at The Loon Center

On Wednesday afternoons, from 2:30 - 3:30, guests at The Loon Center will have the unique opportunity to attend a presentation by LPC Outreach Intern, Melanie Carolan! (See page 9 of this newsletter for a brief bio.) The presentations will run through August 9, with no presentation on July 12 and August 2.

Melanie will speak on loon biology, life history, and the threats facing loons in New Hampshire, as well as the work being conducted by LPC to protect loons in the state. The presentations will include slides, and there will be ample time for questions and answers.

We hope you will join us to learn more about loons, and bring your family and friends! And while you are here, enjoy the many amenities The Loon Center has to offer, as described on page 21 of this newsletter.

~Linda Egli Johnson

Loon Legacy Society

Remembering Loons Now – Protecting Loons Forever

Did You Know That You Can Name LPC as a Beneficiary of:

- IRAs or Other Retirement Funds
- Life Insurance Policies
- Donor Advised Funds (end beneficiary)

For information on planned giving, contact your financial advisor, or reach out to LPC <https://loon.org/bequests/>
Betsy McCoy bmccoy@loon.org



SUMMER BULLETIN BOARD

SUMMER NATURE TALKS: Thursdays at 7pm, July 6 - August 24; FREE

See page 22 for a full lineup of this year's speakers!

LOON CENSUS: Saturday, July 15; 8am - 9am (see census form, page 23)

LOON FESTIVAL: Saturday, July 15; 10am - 2pm; FREE

Come by and celebrate loons with arts & crafts, face painting, balloon sculptures, educational loon slide shows, live animals and exhibits, music, refreshments & more!

LPC ANNUAL MEETING: Thursday, August 24; 6:45pm

You are also welcome to attend the volunteer potluck dinner at 5:30pm (contact volunteers@loon.org to reserve your space) and/or the End of Season Loon Report immediately following the Annual Meeting (see page 22 for description).

*Some of the best memories are made in flip-flops.
-Kellie Elmore*

The Loon's Feather Gift Shop is stocked for the summer!

Come by The Loon Center and browse the extensive collection of loon-themed clothing, jewelry, books, puzzles, home goods and more – *and all profits benefit our loon monitoring, research, management, and education programs!* While you're here, enjoy an award-winning video on loons and our new educational displays that explore topics relating to all aspects of loon biology. And don't forget a walk on our nature trails! There is much to do at The Loon Center, *and all at no charge!*

Can't make it to The Loon Center? Visit The Loon's Feather Gift Shop on-line at loon.org/shop for a sampling of our loon merchandise. And while you're there, explore the many projects of the Loon Preservation Committee, and the work we do to protect New Hampshire's loons!

Loon Center Summer Hours

**July 1 through Indigenous Peoples' Day
9:00 am - 5:00 pm**

see loon.org/loon-center for year-round hours

**Open Labor Day
and Indigenous Peoples' Day**

Trails are open year-round, dawn to dusk.



2023 Summer Nature Talk Schedule

◆ Thursdays, July 6 - August 24, 7pm ◆
at The Loon Center

July 6: Common Loons: Past, Present, and Future with Dr. Mark Pokras

Dr. Pokras, Associate Professor Emeritus of the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, as well as a long-time veterinary collaborator with the Loon Preservation Committee, will discuss the long history of human/loon interactions, scientific research efforts, and the origins of the modern loon conservation movement.

July 13: Loons and Wildlife with Photographers Rick (Mooseman) and Libby Libbey

Rick and Libby will explore the world of loons and other species, such as bear, bobcat, and moose, through their spectacular back-country photography and video. Their philosophy is simple—create as little disturbance as possible so the animals can live their lives as they were meant to, wild and free.

July 20: Loon Cam with Bill Gassman

Join our Loon Cam operator, Bill Gassman, as he shares the dramas of the 2023 Loon Cam season, through video footage and documented behaviors from observing nesting loons. Bill will also share some behind-the-scenes details about how the Loon Cam works, and the challenges of installation and operations.

July 27: The Survival Story of the Moose in New Hampshire with Don Allen

New Hampshire Fish & Game Wildlife Steward, Don Allen, will enlighten you about the natural history of moose, where they are most likely to be found in the state, and about how climate change is impacting their survival in New Hampshire. You will also learn what you can do to help the largest member of the deer family!

August 3: New Hampshire Wildlife with the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center

Join a Squam Lakes Natural Science Center naturalist and meet three live wild animals that you may encounter in our forests, fields, or wetlands. Learn about their places in larger ecosystems and discover what makes these animals well-suited for life in New Hampshire—or even for life right in your backyard!

August 10: The Secret Lives of Our Backyard Raptors with Phil Brown

Phil Brown, Director of the Harris Center for Bird Conservation, will provide an overview of recent research and management efforts to monitor and protect two species of raptors—the forest-dwelling Broad-winged Hawk and the open field-dwelling American Kestrel—species we often share our backyards with across New Hampshire.

August 17: The Black Bear of New Hampshire with Don Allen

The presence of the Black Bear in modern New Hampshire is a wildlife restoration success story. Join New Hampshire Fish & Game Wildlife Steward, Don Allen, as he recounts the comeback of the Black Bear, from a depleted population of 500 in 1900 to nearly 5000 in the past decade.

August 24: End of Season Loon Report with Harry Vogel and John Rockwood

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

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, 15 July 2023
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 22 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



The Loon Preservation Committee
gratefully acknowledges
Squam Boat Livery
for underwriting this publication.

