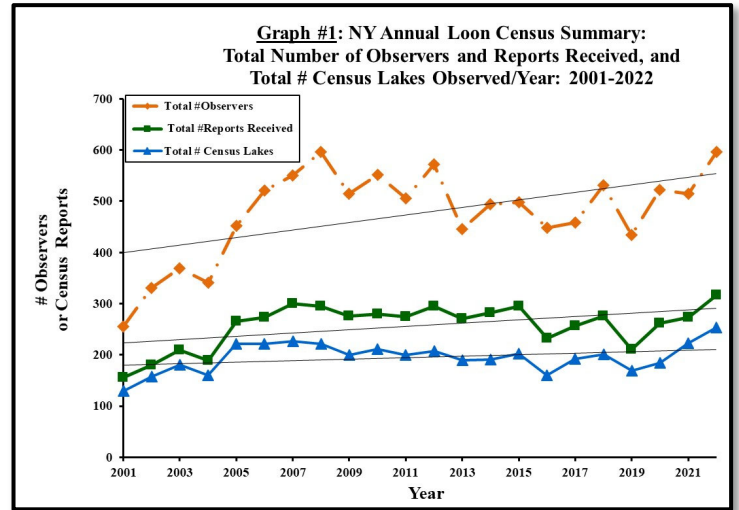




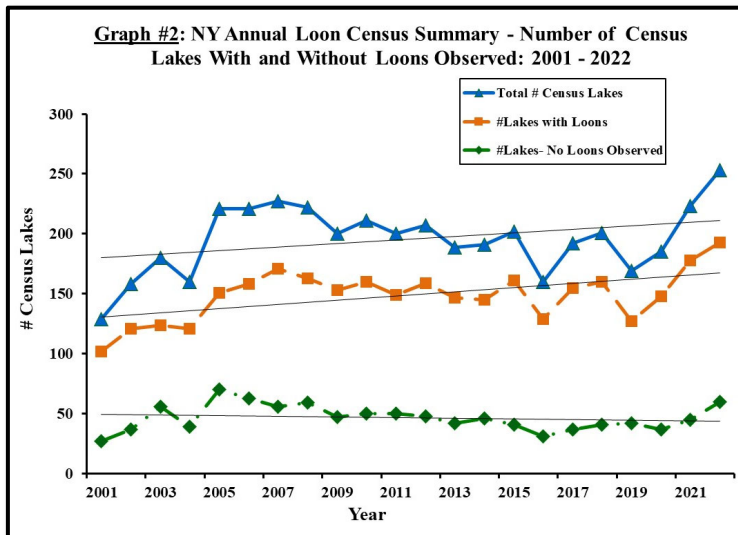
SUMMARY OF THE NEW YORK ANNUAL LOON CENSUS RESULTS: 2001-2022

A SPECIAL THANKS to the many observers who have participated in the New York Annual Loon Census since its inception in 2001! Your observations over the last two decades have greatly contributed to our understanding of the Common Loon population summering in and around New York's Adirondack Park.

Since 2006, 500 or more people have participated each year in the New York Annual Loon Census, providing over 250 reports each year (Graph #1).



Thank You!

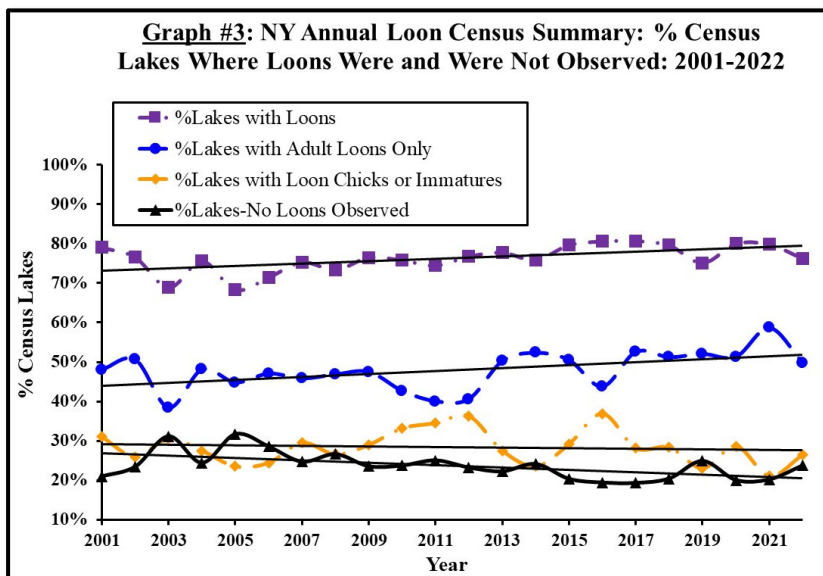


The number of lakes included in the New York Annual Loon Census has ranged from 129 lakes in 2001, the first year of the Census, to a high of 253 lakes in 2022. The number of Census lakes where no loons have been observed has varied from 27 in 2001 to a high of 70 in 2005 (Graph #2).

Over the past two-plus decades, loons have been observed on an average of 75% of the Census lakes, ranging from 102 Census lakes in 2001 to a high of 193 lakes in 2022.

Graph #3 shows the percentage of lakes where loons were observed each year of the New York Loon Census. These results indicate that the summer loon population on lakes in and around the Adirondacks appears to have gradually increased from 2001-2022.

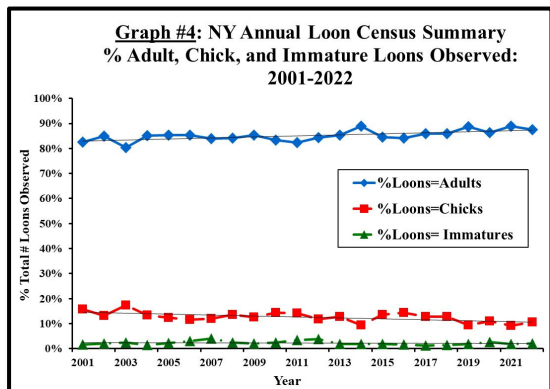
Although the number of lakes included in the New York Loon Census has varied from year to year, the percentage of lakes with loons has slowly increased from ~70% in the earlier years of the Census to an average of 79% from 2015-2022.



The percent of Census Lakes with only adult loons has been slowly increasing over time, from a low of 38% in 2003 to a high of 59% in 2021. There was a variable trend year-to-year in the percentage of lakes with loon chicks or immatures, however, the overall trend has been decreasing over time. In 2022, loon chicks or immatures were observed on ~26% of the Census lakes. This indicates that although loons have been increasingly present on New York lakes over the course of our study, they have a low reproductive rate that is on a decreasing trend.

However, the summers of 2013-2015, and from 2017-2022, were relatively poor years for chicks, with chicks being observed on less than 30% of the Census lakes. The heavy rains in those summers causing nest flooding were likely a major factor in why chicks were observed on fewer lakes those years. These trends indicate that torrential rains secondary to climate change may be impacting loon reproductive success in the Adirondacks. Predation of eggs and chicks is also a factor affecting loon productivity. Predation is another primary factor affecting loon nesting success and chick survival. Numerous predators, including eagles, bears, mink, bass, and other loons will kill chicks and or loon eggs. Fortunately, loons are long-lived, and if a nest fails, they may re-nest that summer or try again in the following year.

Even if you have not yet seen loons or loon chicks on your Census lake, your observations are very important to document changes in loon habitat use and population trends over time. Please continue to submit your reports, whether you see loons or not!



The proportion of adult and young loons on the NY Census lakes has remained relatively constant from 2001 to 2022 (Graph #4). The summer population of loons on the New York Census lakes has averaged 84% adults, 13% loon chicks, and 2% immatures. However, in the last few years there has been a slight downward trend in the presence of chicks. The low percentage of immature loons observed reflects the fact that the Census is conducted in late July, when most of the chicks are still less than 8 weeks old, and have not yet acquired their feathered plumage.