



## ADIRONDACK CENTER *for* LOON CONSERVATION

### 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Adirondack Loon Research:** Fortunately, covid restrictions eased enough by early June that we were able to continue our long-term studies on the Adirondack loon population. Luckily, monitoring loons in a solo canoe or kayak can be done in a socially-distant manner!
- **Loon Mercury-Climate Change Study:** As part of our long-term research on the Adirondack loon population, 17 field staff monitored 107 Adirondack lakes this summer looking for over 328 banded loons to determine if they successfully raised chicks. We also sampled 12 loons from 9 lakes to assess their health and mercury exposure. The results of our fieldwork on Adirondack loons provide insight about the impact of factors such as climate change, predation, and human disturbance on loon reproductive success.
- **The Secret Lives of Nesting Loons:** We placed trail cameras at 16 loon nests this summer and we are now cataloging the thousands of images our cameras caught. *Stay tuned for a report about this study soon!*
- **NY Loon Census:** The 2020 NY Loon Census was held on Saturday, July 18, from 8-9a.m. Hundreds of people participated and sent in their loon observations. We are currently analyzing the results, which will be posted on our website later this winter. *Many Thanks to all our Census observers!*
- **Loon Rescues:** We received a multitude of reports from concerned citizens about loons in distress. Fortunately, the majority of birds were actually behaving normally – most of them were bathing, and the callers were unfamiliar with how much a loon splashes about when it's taking a bath! We successfully rescued six loons – including three juveniles who apparently were learning to fly, but landed on a road instead of water.
- **Loon-Friendly Lake Certification Program:** We introduced our new community environmental stewardship program this summer. *Want to help Adirondack loons and lakes? Please join us in this exciting program!* Learn more about loons and become involved in making your lake a better place for loons and other wildlife – it's fun and rewarding!
- **Adirondack Loon Center:** We felt the most impact from Covid-19 at the Loon Center, where we had about half the number of visitors compared to last year. We greatly missed sharing our loon adventures and knowledge with everyone! *Many thanks* to those of you who were able to visit us and see our new merchandise and exhibits – it was wonderful to talk with you. We also expanded our online store and our website so you can “visit” us from the comfort of your home if you are unable to come to the Adirondacks. Your purchases for your loon-loving friends and family help support our research and education programs throughout the Park – *Have fun!*
- **Summer Interns:** Three interns joined us remotely this summer: Will Krohn from Colgate's Upstate Field School helped us with developing surveys for the Loon-Friendly Lake Certification Program; Jacob Nachamie from the Putnam Valley High School is helping us with our loon nest camera study for 3 years; and Jesse Foley-Tapia, a Univ. Berkeley graduate, is providing us with invaluable assistance with the preparation of grant proposals.
- **Fishing Line Recycling Containers:** Our fishing line recycling containers have been placed at many sites across the Park. If you would like to maintain a container at your lake, fish and game club, or other site, please contact us to get one! A list and map of container locations will be available on our website soon so you can easily recycle line.



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