



## ADIRONDACK CENTER *for* LOON CONSERVATION

### 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

**ADIRONDACK LOON RESEARCH:** As part of our long-term Adirondack loon research, our dedicated field staff, volunteers, and interns **monitored loon reproductive success on over 100 Adirondack lakes** this summer. The data we collect provides insight into the impact of such threats as climate change, predation, environmental pollutants, and human recreation. We also **sampled 19 loons on 9 lakes** to assess their health, mercury and avian flu exposure. Additionally, we were thrilled to have **over 500 observers on 200+ lakes participate in our 2022 NY Loon Census—*Many Thanks!***

**LOON MANAGEMENT:** In addition to our population research, we also address threats to individual loons, including:

- **Loon Nest Site Protection:**\* We collaborated with Adirondack lake associations to place nest warning buoys near loon nests with high potential to be disturbed by people. Eight sites were also identified as candidates for nest rafts to improve loon hatching success. We are working with NYS DEC to secure permits for raft deployment in future years.
- **Loon Rescues:**\* We trained 14 volunteers this summer for our regional Adirondack loon rescue teams. These teams enabled us to mobilize quickly to rescue 17 distressed loons this year, including nine iced-in birds, four who had gone over dams, two who were tangled in fishing line, and two who had landed on a road. We also coordinated the collection of 10 dying or deceased loons for necropsy, one of which had been shot and another was positive for avian flu. We also responded to dozens of reports of potentially distressed loons who were actually exhibiting normal behavior.



**EDUCATION AND OUTREACH:** We reached nearly 10,000 people of all ages with our education and outreach programs, including school classes, summer camps, our “Loon Zooms,” presentations, displays at community events, field trips, our annual Loon Celebration, and visitors to our Adirondack Loon Center.



- **Loon-Friendly Lake Certification Program:**\* More than 30 lake associations participated in our community stewardship program in 2022. We are excited about all this great community support, which helps us all better protect Adirondack loons and their habitats!



- **Lead-Tackle Buy-Back Program:**\* Eleven Adirondack fishing tackle outfitters participated this summer in our Lead Tackle Buy-Back Program to increase anglers’ awareness about the poisonous threat lead fishing tackle poses to loons and other wildlife. This program reduces the amount of lead tackle in use by providing non-toxic tackle to anglers in exchange for their old lead tackle.



- **Murals and Exhibit Plans for the Adirondack Loon Center:** This July, we unveiled our intriguing loon mural in front of our Adirondack Loon Center, and inside, we painted the background for our upcoming “*Year in the Life of a Loon*” photo diorama. We are currently designing exhibits that will correspond to the stages of a loon’s life depicted in the photos on the upper walls of the Loon Center.

- **Summer Interns:** We had the invaluable support of seven student interns this summer for our research and education programs, including Tessa Mountain from Colgate University; Hannah Pryor from Paul Smith’s College; Nicholas Sparano from Clemson University; and Hannah Ashe, Sydney Burgy, Brian Merrigan and Hailey Stetz Schaeffer from SUNY ESF. They shared their appreciation for how their internships with the Adirondack Loon Center gave them a sound foundation for their future careers in the fields of wildlife science and environmental education.



**STAFF AND BOARD TRANSITIONS:** We were honored to be joined by two new staff, four new Board members, and two advisors this year; including **Susan Harry**, our Philanthropy Director, and **Jay Locke**, our Finance and Operations Director; Board members **Harry Gordon**, **Benita Law-Diao**, **Kim Pope**, and **Jim Sonneborn**; and Advisors **John DiGiacomo** and **Richmond Rabinowitz**. We are thrilled to work with these wonderful people, as their broad experience and knowledge will significantly enhance our loon research and conservation efforts in the Adirondacks. With all these very capable people overseeing our organization, one of our founding Board members, Chandler Ralph, decided to retire from the Board this fall. Chandler’s expertise and guidance were instrumental in establishing and growing the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation since we became a nonprofit in 2017. *We will miss her deeply, and wish her well in all her future endeavors!*

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