



BRI'S ADIRONDACK CENTER  
FOR LOON CONSERVATION



Greetings!

After an unseasonably warm fall, the start of the new year brought real winter weather to the Adirondacks—and with it, a week of unexpected fieldwork, rescuing loons who stayed on their lakes a little too long! We hope you enjoy reading about our winter adventures.

## ~ WINTER UPDATE ~



As we move into February, our plans to establish a physical Adirondack Loon Center are progressing very well. We are pleased to announce that we will be partnering with Adirondack Trails and Lodging to share office space and a storefront in downtown Saranac Lake. This multi-purpose space will greatly enhance our ability to conduct Adirondack loon research, outreach, and conservation projects.

*With your support, we look forward to growing, and doing even more for Adirondack loon conservation in the future.*

With much gratitude and best wishes for an excellent 2016!

~Nina, Martha, and Rory

## HELP US BUILD A NEST OF OUR OWN!

### *Become a Founding Donor of the Future Adirondack Loon Center!*

**Your help is essential** to our ambitious vision to create an Adirondack Loon Center in the Tri-Lakes. This summer, in collaboration with Adirondack Trails and Lodging, we plan to open our first official office, educational, and retail space in a revitalized Saranac Lake storefront.

Our partnership will help us minimize expenses so we can focus on investing in quality educational displays and a unique store, and most especially, on the future of Adirondack loon conservation and research.

To achieve these exciting initiatives, our budget will increase significantly in the coming year, as it will include one-time startup costs for the Center. And our future plans also include expanding our capacity by adding an environmental educator and retail store manager to our staff. *Thus, support from many sources, including YOU, is critical.*

**Please join us by becoming a Founding Donor of the Adirondack Loon Center, and take part in this thrilling new vision for loon conservation in the Adirondacks!** To do so, mail in the enclosed support form, or visit our website, [www.briloon.org/adkloon](http://www.briloon.org/adkloon), to donate online and learn more about our plans for the Adirondack Loon Center.

***We are most grateful to our first set of Founding Donors, who generously responded to our recent Adirondack Gives campaign and email update. Thank You!***



## SPECIAL OFFERS FOR OUR FOUNDING DONORS!

All Founding Donors will be recognized on our **Founding Donor Recognition Wall** and invited to a **Special Donor Reception**.

Additionally, donors of:

- **\$100** or more will receive a beautiful **8x10" loon photograph**;
- **\$500** or more will receive a copy of **Kip Taylor's out-of-print book, *Loon***;
- **\$1,000** or more will be invited on a **personal outing** with one of the Center's staff to observe our study loons on an Adirondack lake;
- **\$10,000** or more will be recognized with an **individual plaque on the Founding Donor Recognition Wall**;
- **\$25,000** or more will have the opportunity to **name a room at the Loon Center** in their honor or in honor of a loved one.



## ABOUT BRI AND ITS ADIRONDACK CENTER FOR LOON CONSERVATION

Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Portland, Maine. Founded in 1998, BRI's mission is to assess emerging threats to wildlife and ecosystems through collaborative research, and to use scientific findings to advance environmental awareness and inform decision makers. In 1998, as part of a larger regional study, BRI initiated research in New York's Adirondack Park on the impact of airborne mercury pollution to Common Loons (*Gavia immer*) and aquatic ecosystems.

BRI's Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation was launched in 2009, evolving from this research and the former Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program. BRI's Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation merges scientific research with innovative educational programming to address critical conservation issues affecting the loon population and aquatic ecosystems in and beyond the Adirondacks. Through our scientific studies and engaging outreach, BRI's Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation seeks to ensure that Common Loons remain an integral and vital part of New York's wildlife heritage, and that their haunting calls continue to echo across Adirondack lakes for generations to come.

**For more information:** BRI's Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation  
P.O. Box 195, Ray Brook, NY 12977  
888-749-5666 x145, [adkloon@briloon.org](mailto:adkloon@briloon.org)  
[www.briloon.org/adkloon](http://www.briloon.org/adkloon)  
[www.facebook.com/adkloon](http://www.facebook.com/adkloon)

Biodiversity Research Institute  
276 Canco Rd.  
Portland, ME 04103  
207-839-7600  
[www.briloon.org](http://www.briloon.org)



# ADIRONDACK LOON RESCUES BRING IN THE NEW YEAR!

BRI's Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation fields calls throughout the year about loons in need of rescue, and we do our best to help. Early January brought a significant cold snap to the Adirondacks and a flurry of loon rescues. We successfully assisted in saving five loons in less than a week: three from iced-in lakes, one blown down onto a road by a storm, and one unable to fly due to fishing line entanglement.

The first rescued loon had evaded several capture attempts during the fall, but it failed to migrate due to a lure wrapped around its wing and a fishing hook lodged in the wing itself. When the lake froze over the first week of January, we were finally able to catch it and remove the line, lure, and hook from its wing. The bird was then transferred to Tufts Wildlife Clinic for continued rehabilitation. Fortunately, this very spunky loon did great at the clinic, and has since been released on the coast.

The same day that this capture took place, DEC contacted us about a juvenile loon found on a road near Canton, NY. Blown down by a storm the night before, the loon could not take off again once on the ground, as loons need to run on several hundred feet of water to get airborne. Despite its troubles, the loon was in excellent shape, and was released on open water that day.



A rescued loon appears grateful as it looks back on rescuers one last time before swimming off into Lake Champlain (© B. Schoch).

We received another call three days later, this time about a two- to three-year-old juvenile iced-in on Fourth Lake. Upon capture, we discovered that this loon was in the process of molting its flight feathers—a temporarily flightless bird! Usually, this molting takes place on the coastal wintering grounds, where loons are not susceptible to being trapped by frozen lakes, but for older juveniles like this one, the molting cycle can be irregular the first year their adult plumage comes in. It was a very interesting bird, with the gray body plumage of a juvenile, the white and black upper feathers of an adult, and no flight feathers to speak of! It seemed very grateful as it looked back after being released on the open waters of Lake Champlain.

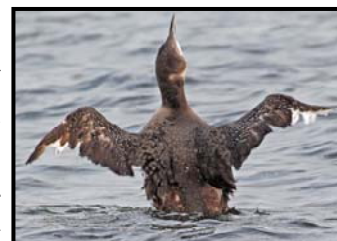


Iced-in loon peeks out of the water at its rescuers, but it's not sure if that's a better option than the eagle waiting in the nearby pine! (© N. Schoch).

Only two days later, two more loons were discovered in need of rescue from their frozen lakes. Both loons were last summer's chicks, and apparently had not realized that they should migrate to the coast as colder temperatures and frozen water set in. Both were quite feisty birds, who thanked their rescuers by attempting to bite them! In the end, these birds were safely relocated to Lake Champlain, sporting new bands to help us monitor and study them in the future.



Lake Clear Wabblers lure hangs from wing as loon tries to take flight to evade rescuers (© N. Schoch).



Fourth Lake loon stretches after release. Note the black and white feathers in upper wings, and missing flight feathers, while body plumage is still juvenile (© B. Schoch).



Iced-in loon gives its rescuers a piece of its mind! (© E. George).

**We (and especially the rescued loons) are MOST grateful to the intrepid rescuers, including our own Gary Lee, who have the experience to safely conduct such loon rescues.**

Without them, the loons would likely have been lunch for the eagles waiting in the wings!

\*\*\*Please note that rescuing an iced-in loon is extremely dangerous, as the ice is very thin around the open water. Such rescues should be conducted only by people with both ice rescue and loon-handling experience, and significant precautions should be taken to prevent a human from needing rescue as well!



## YES! I WOULD LIKE TO BE A FOUNDING DONOR OF THE FUTURE ADIRONDACK LOON CENTER!



**Enclosed is my donation to support the future Adirondack Loon Center:**

\$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ **My check is enclosed:** Please make payable to "Biodiversity Research Institute"
- ☐ **Credit Card:** I will visit [www.briloon.org/adkloon/support](http://www.briloon.org/adkloon/support) to charge my credit card online.
- ☐ I would like my donation to remain anonymous.

**First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Clip this Form and Return it to:** BRI's Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation  
P.O. Box 195, Ray Brook, NY 12977

**Thank you for your generous support!**

Biodiversity Research Institute is a 501c3 non-profit organization, and your donation is tax-deductible.