

CLA Annual Meeting LOON REPORT

As of June 20, no nesting site for Canaan Street Lake loons has been identified. The Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) website notes that loons in our area typically initiate nests between late May and late June, though these dates can vary and be as early as early May or as late as mid-July. 1 or 2 eggs per nest is typical; incubated an average of 27 days. Male and female loons share incubation duties equally, leaving one parent consistently on the nest. Continued reports of two loons fishing together suggests that Canaan's loons have not yet nested.

Since May, three loons have been frequently spotted on the lake, two fishing as a pair and the third generally fishing distant from the pair. Canaan Lake is part of the Sunapee Region of the LPC and this year there is a new staff member assigned to our area. Phil Keefe (Sunapee Region LPC) emailed to let us know that he "paddled the entire shoreline on June 15 and 16 with extra attention on the historic nesting sites and probable nesting habitat and didn't see a nest. Loons can pick some fairly well-hidden spots, but with what [he] found ...[he didn't] believe there's a nest." His assessment is that "it's still possible for the pair to nest, ...nests have initiated later in the season than this and been successful."

Earlier in the season lake level was discussed and due to concern that high water level could lead to nest failure from flooding, a board was removed from the dam in outlet cove in early June. Since that time, a board has been added back to the dam to raise water level in light of current dry conditions. LPC loon information suggests that in the event of nest failure, loons may renest up to 3 times in the same year. Fingers are crossed that Canaan's loons have chosen to be late season parents!

The US Fish and Wildlife Service reminds us that "one of the biggest threats to loons comes from lead sinkers. Confusing sinkers for pebbles that loons need to aid digestion, they can swallow enough lead to cause lead poisoning". Lead free tackle is available through the LPC. The birds are also at risk of becoming ensnared in fishing line when fishermen and loons are fishing in close proximity. It is recommended that hooks and lines be taken in, temporarily, when loons are fishing and diving nearby.

Please feel free to contact me should you have questions regarding loons in general or something specific to "our" loons. We continue to watch for a nesting site and should you see the loon on their nest, try not to disturb the bird, note the location and email me at the gmail address below. CLA has a floating sign to caution boaters about the presence of nesting loons. We'll place the caution sign if/when we hear of a nesting site.

The NH Loon Preservation Committee web site is a good source of information about loons (<https://loon.org>). There you will find copies of current and past newsletters, live loon cam, general information about loons, even loon-themed gifts. LPC can also be reached at 603-476-5666.

Enjoy your summer!

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