

A quick synopsis of 2020 loon activity on Great and Long Ponds as of our latest surveys, completed the week of July 13, 2020. **WARNING** - it's not good news.

Great Pond:

The only remaining active nest we were aware of (Great Pond Marina) has failed (abandonment). There was one intact egg found in the nest, cold and has been retrieved for testing. They were past due to hatch, so it appears the egg was unviable. No other new nests were found, no chicks were found, and adult sightings were scarce. We are beyond the normal nesting period now, so it's possible there will be no chicks hatched or fledged on Great Pond this year, unless we've missed something(s). It happens, especially on a lake the size and shape of Great Pond.

Long Pond:

Beaver Cove - 2 chicks hatched 7/9 & 10, and we're observed during the Audubon Loon Count
Ingham Pond - 2 chicks hatched 7/6 & 17. Both chicks failed to survive the perilous first few days.
Lynch Cove - incubating on the raft (second attempt), due to hatch early August

No other new nests or re-nests (second attempts) were found.

Four adult loons were successfully banded the evening of 7/21, the pair in Long Pond's Beaver Cove and the pair in Ingham Pond.

It's too early to draw any conclusions about these results. Loon productivity varies widely from year-to-year, and multiple poor years in a row are common. With this study, we are trying to determine if these are predictably a few bad years or a longer term downward trend to be concerned about. The results underscore the need to continue to monitor breeding activity and results, closely, for at least another three years.

My last round of surveys for 2020 will be conducted in early August, with a comprehensive report compiled and submitted before the end of the year.

Lastly, it's important to share that we are not working in a bubble. Through my own work in other areas of Maine, and my network of contacts with the leading loon conservations in the country, I have access to the most current information about how loons are fairing across other regions of Maine, and in other New England states.

Regards,
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Dedicated to the protection and welfare of loons and their lakes through collaboration, education, and the implementation of successful conservation actions.