THE 2013 NEW YORK ANNUAL LOON CENSUS RESULTS

“Eventually I continued along the lake… and this is when, with the binoculars, I observed the chick!! It was very close to mama. …this was the first time in many years I have seen a chick on the lake, so it was very exciting!”– Sand Lake

More than 440 observers participated in the thirteenth Annual New York Loon Census on Saturday, July 20, 2013. A total of 270 Annual Loon Census reports were submitted, 16 of which were not included in the analysis because the observations were conducted outside the Census hour or were duplicated efforts on a lake. Thus, 254 reports were included in the 2013 Loon Census analysis.

Observers reported seeing 750 loons on 147 (78%) of the 189 Census lakes, including 509 (85%) adults, 76 (13%) chicks, and 11 (2%) immature loons (Chart #1). The number of loons that were observed on each Census lake is reported in Table #1: 2013 Annual Loon Census Results.

"Very rewarding sighting! Great morning for paddling. I looked everywhere for them. Go figure they were right in front of the boat launch as I headed in to leave around 8:45am." – Jones Pond
Adult loons without chicks were observed on 95 (50%) of the 2013 Census lakes, and loon chicks or immature birds were observed on 52 (28%) of the lakes. No loons were observed on 42 (22%) of the lakes (Chart #2). The reports of “no loons observed” are just as valuable as reporting the presence of loons, as they enable changes in habitat use by loons to be documented over time.

One hundred and sixty-six (88%) of the 189 Census lakes were located in the Adirondack Park. This Census also included 48 randomly chosen lakes. These randomly chosen lakes are valuable for enabling statistical techniques to be used to estimate the summer Adirondack loon population, and monitor population trends over time.

Once again, we greatly appreciate the assistance of the people who coordinated Census observers on several of the larger waterbodies and private clubs. Their coordination prevented duplication of observations on the following 2013 Annual Loon Census lakes:

- Adirondack League Club
- Canada Lake
- Chazy Lake
- Cranberry Lake
- Lake George
- Lake Placid
- Loon Lake
- Lows Lake
- Northwoods Club
- Old Forge Area
- Peck Lake
- Raquette Lake
- St. Lawrence River
- St. Regis Canoe Area
- Tawahus Club
- Upper Saranac Lake
- Wilmurt Club
- Long Lake

“It was a beautiful morning, still at first then light breeze. Saw Kingfisher and a female duck & 5 chicks, then found smaller (assume Female) adult loon with two chicks guessing to be about 4 weeks old from size & looks (no feathers yet, larger bill). They were enjoying the morning with slight wails and hoots” – Utowana Lake

A BIG THANK YOU! to all the dedicated census observers who have contributed to the success of the New York Annual Loon Census!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR ANOTHER EXCITING NEW YORK ANNUAL LOON CENSUS ON SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2014!
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The Census Observers

Please join us for the 2014 annual loon census!
Saturday, July 19, from 8-9 a.m.

See the Census Sign Up page to find out how to participate in the Census.

Invite your friends to observe a new Census lake!

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Totals: 509 76 11 596