

Loon Committee Report for the July, 15, 2023 HSPA Annual Meeting

- This spring the loons built two nests on Sand Pond and two nests on Hancock. As of today all four have been abandoned.
- We assume that the cause is continually rising pond water and possibly predators. There is increased Bald Eagle activity in the area.
- The LEA Loon Project placed loon rafts at the north end of Sand Pond and in Loon Cove on Hancock. Neither raft was occupied by loons. The committee placed signs to discourage people from coming close to the loon nests near nesting areas.
- The Audubon Loon Count was held July 15 from 7 - 7:30 am. Our intrepid teams reported that they found 4 loons on Sand Pond and 6 loons on Hancock. These numbers are what they actually saw during the designated time frame. At other times more loons are sighted. These numbers were reported to Maine Audubon.
- Maggie Welch, leader of the LEA Loon Project is considering other placements for the loon rafts next year in the hopes that they will be successful in helping loons resist rising water and predators. Maggie is grateful for the Loon Committee's observations and suggestions as she makes these decisions.
- Good news! The Maine State Legislature passed a bill to close the loop hole in the previous bill banning lead fishing tackle. Lead is the primary cause of premature loon deaths.
- The HSPA Loon Committee members continue to educate people about living in loon territory. In particular we urge people to watch nesting loons and loon chicks through binoculars only and to discard any old lead tackle.
- You are welcome to join the Loon Committee. We usually meet annually in late summer and keep in touch about loon activities via email. Please sign the email list at today's meeting or <mailto:amymarch852@gmail.com> .

Submitted by Amy March, July 20, 2023