



The Adirondack Tremolo

2002 Spring-Summer Newsletter – Vol. 1, Issue 2

The Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program Launches Lead Sinker Exchange Project!

The Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program, in conjunction with the National Wildlife Federation, is coordinating a lead sinker exchange project throughout the Adirondack Park during the summer of 2002. Anglers will be able to exchange toxic lead sinkers and jigs for free samples of non-lead sinkers at numerous fishing tackle supply sites and boat launches in the Park. A free brochure discussing the toxic effects of lead on wildlife, including loons, and the availability of alternative fishing tackle, will be provided.

This outreach project will inform Adirondack anglers about the benefits to wildlife and the ease of using alternative types of non-toxic fishing equipment. Loons and other waterbirds die from lead poisoning when they swallow lead fishing tackle accidentally lost by anglers. Lead poisoning is a significant source of mortality in adult breeding loons throughout the Northeast and New York.

In May, 2002, Governor Pataki signed a bill banning the sale of lead fishing sinkers weighing ½ ounce or less. ACLP's lead sinker exchange project will introduce anglers to alternative sinker types that will be required when this legislation takes effect in 2004.

The lead sinker exchange project is made possible through contributions from Bullet Weights, Elk Lake Lodge, and contributors to the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program.

Please check the ACLP website, www.adkscience.org/loons, to see the up-to-date list of participating exchange sites and to read or download our "Get the Lead Out" brochure.

Please Visit One of ACLP's Participating Sinker Exchange Sites!

Town	Lead Sinker Exchange Site
Adirondack	Adirondack General Store
Blue Mtn Lake	Blue Mountain Outfitters
Bolton Landing	Ann's Bait & Tackle Shop
Bolton Landing	Peace Pipe Fishing Outfitters
Brant Lake	Daby's General Store
Caroga Lake	Canada Lakes Store and Marine
Cranberry Lake	Emporium Marine
Chestertown	Crossroads General Store
Crown Point	Norm's Bait & Tackle
Crown Point	Bayside Shoe Repair and Tackle
Dannemora	Outfitters Plus
Diamond Point	The Outdoorsman Sportshop
Eagle Bay	Dunn's Boat Works
Hague	Hague Boat Launch
Indian Lake	Spring's Store
Indian Lake	Pines Country Store
Inlet	Inlet Dept. Store
Inlet	Adk Cmty Information Center – Inlet
Lake Clear	Mac's Canoe Livery
Lake Clear	Lake Clear General Store
Lake George	Beach Rd. Outdoor Supply Co.
Lake Placid	Jones Outfitters
Lake Placid	Blue Mountain Outfitters
Lake Placid	Lake Placid Boat Launch
Lake Pleasant	Abanake
Long Lake	Hoss's Country Corner
Long Lake	Adirondack Outfitters of Long Lake
Newcomb	Cloudsplitter's Outfitters
North Creek	Adk Cmty Information Center – North Crk
North River	North Country Sports
Old Forge	Old Forge Hardware
Old Forge	Ace Hardware
Old Forge	Haderonda Company
Paul Smiths	Upper St. Regis Boat Launch
Piseco	Piseco Lake Lodge
Raquette Lake	Raquette Lake Supply Co.
Saranac	Sportsman's Paradise
Saranac Inn	Upper Saranac Lake Boat Launch
Saranac Lake	Adirondack Fish Hatchery
Saranac Lake	St. Regis Canoe Outfitters
Saranac Lake	Blue Line Sports Shop
Schroon Lake	Anderson's Gift Shop & Sporting Goods
Speculator	Tanner's Outdoor Sports
Star Lake	Adk Cmty Information Center – Star Lake
Thendara	Moose River Trading Company
Tupper Lake	Tip Top Sports Shop
Tupper Lake	Hickock's Boat Livery
Warrensburg	Nemec's Sport Shop & Garden Center
Wells	Lakeside General Store
Wevertown	Beaver Brook Outfitters
Wilmington	Fran Better's Adirondack Sport Shop

Summer 2002 Loon Census

*The Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program (ACLP) is a cooperative research and education effort studying the natural history of the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) and the effects of contaminants and human interactions on loon populations in the Adirondack Park of New York State.*

The Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program is a partnership of the Wildlife Conservation Society, Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, BioDiversity Research Institute of Falmouth ME, and the Audubon Society of New York State, Inc.

ACLP Steering Committee:

- Heidi Kretser – Wildlife Conservation Society
- Rick Godin – Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks
- Bryan Swift – NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
- David Evers – BioDiversity Research Institute of Falmouth, ME
- Fred Realbutto – Audubon Society of New York State, Inc.

Program Coordinator:

Nina Schoch

Education Assistant:

Stacey Low

To Contact the ACLP:

Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program
P.O. Box 195
Ray Brook, NY 12977
Phone: (518) 327-6457
E-mail: aclp2@juno.com
www.adkscience.org/loons

The annual census will be held from **8-9 a.m. on Saturday, July 20th, 2002**. If you are interested in volunteering, this is an excellent opportunity to assist the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program! Through the census, we hope to determine the long-term population trends of loons summering in the Adirondack Park.

If you participated in the census in 2001, we are counting on you again this year! Please spread the word – encourage your friends to join us!

How to sign up for a lake during the census:

To prevent duplicate observations, we are requesting that census observers sign up for a lake prior to July 1st to be sent a scannable census form. **If you participated last year**, you do not need to contact us, unless you want to work on a different lake, as we will assume that you will look for loons on the same lake as last year.

A map of the assigned lakes will be posted on our website, and updated weekly during June and July - please check the map to find out which lakes are already assigned and which are still available. **If you did not participate in 2001, please e-mail or call ACLP at aclp2@juno.com or (518) 327-6457** to let us know which lake you would like to work on (please choose a lake that has not yet been assigned to an observer).

Please use the new census form!

Due to the high number of observations we are expecting this year, we will be using a machine-scannable census form to enable us to enter the data into the computer more efficiently. **Census forms will be sent in early July to all observers that sign up for a lake by July 1st.** Please use the census form that is sent to you. After July 1st, you can contact ACLP to be sent a scannable form or download a non-scannable form from the ACLP website.

Remember to Check Our Website!

www.adkscience.org/loons

- ◆ *Want to learn more about loon natural history?*
- ◆ *Get more information on ACLP's lead sinker exchange project, the Lake Champlain surveys, and ASNY's "Loon Ranger" monitoring program!*
- ◆ *See what lakes will be included in the 2002 annual census!*
- ◆ *Join our loon discussions!*

Lake Champlain Survey

The Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program is partnering with the Vermont Loon Recovery Project (VLRP) to conduct a large-scale survey of Lake Champlain on the morning of **Saturday, July 20th**. Each volunteer will be assigned a small section of Lake Champlain to survey between 6 am and 10 am before the mid-day winds pick up. At least 30 volunteers with motorboats that can navigate the open waters of Lake Champlain will be needed to survey both sides of the entire lake. Volunteers who conduct surveys by canoe, kayak, or from shore will be able to help on the smaller bays and along shorelines.

In addition, ACLP and the VLRP encourage volunteers to survey parts of Lake Champlain and lakes in the Lake Champlain watershed at any time from mid-May through July and record their sightings.

Additional information about the Lake Champlain surveys and reporting forms will be posted on the ACLP website. If you are interested in participating in the Lake Champlain Surveys, please contact ACLP or Eric Hanson at the Vermont Loon Recovery Project: (802) 586-8064 or ehanson@together.net.

Want to Volunteer More?

Become a Loon Ranger!

The Audubon Society of New York State, Inc., is continuing its "Loon Ranger" monitoring program. If you are a regular visitor to a lake in the Adirondack Park and are interested in participating in recording observations about loons throughout the summer, please contact Fred Realbuto at the Audubon Society of New York State, Inc. for more information: (518) 767-9051x15; frealbuto@audubonintl.org.

We have recently revised the reporting forms for the Loon Ranger monitoring program to provide us with more in-depth information about loons in the Park. We are very excited about the increased quality of data the Loon Rangers will be collecting – over time, these observations will provide us with the ability to determine the long-term reproductive success of loons breeding in the Adirondacks.

APA Recognizes Dr. Nina Schoch!

Dr. Schoch, ACLP's Program Coordinator, was recognized by the Adirondack Park Agency during an Earth Day ceremony for her work in educating the public about factors affecting loon populations in the Adirondack Park. ***Congratulations!***

Many Thanks!

We continue to receive exceptional support and assistance from people interested in loons in the Adirondack Park and our work. The Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program is only able to accomplish so many projects thanks to the assistance and generosity of Park residents and visitors, as well as the staff of our partnering organizations.

In particular, we are especially grateful to the following people and organizations:

- ❖ Jason Smith
- ❖ Beehive Music
- ❖ GMN Photography
- ❖ SUNY ESF – Adirondack Ecological Center & Cranberry Biological Station
- ❖ Jay Mager
- ❖ Dr. Judy McIntyre
- ❖ Elk Lake Lodge
- ❖ Bullet Weights
- ❖ National Wildlife Federation
- ❖ Vermont Loon Recovery Project
- ❖ The numerous fishing supply stores and boat launches that are participating in our lead sinker exchange project.

Support Our Efforts!

Please consider a tax-deductible donation to the Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks or to the Wildlife Conservation Society for the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program. Your contributions will enable us to continue this important conservation and education effort.

To help support the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program, contact:

- ◆ **Diana Fortune** at the Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks: (518) 359-2533 or via e-mail: dfortune@adknature.org.
- ◆ **Ingrid Li** at the Wildlife Conservation Society: (718) 270-1442 or via e-mail: ili@wcs.org.

Upcoming Events:

- ❖ **Lead fishing tackle exchange project – Anglers!** Exchange your lead fishing sinkers and jigs for non-toxic alternatives at over 45 sites in the Adirondack Park! Locations listed in this newsletter and on our website – also download our “Get the Lead Out” brochure!
- ❖ **Mark your calendars!** The 2002 Loon Census is scheduled for **July 20. Look for details inside on how to sign up for a lake via the ACLP website.**

Please join us – the census provides an excellent opportunity to participate in our research, as well as watch some truly unique birds!

- ❖ **We’re planning presentations for the public for this summer.** Please contact ACLP for details or to schedule a presentation in your area.

Want to Volunteer with ACLP?

- ❖ *Participate in the annual census or the Lake Champlain surveys!*
- ❖ *Help us with the Lead Sinker Exchange Project!*
- ❖ *Monitor banded loons!*
- ❖ *Present education programs!*
- ❖ *Become a “Loon Ranger” – contact Fred Realbuto at the Audubon Society of New York State, Inc.: (518) 767-9051x15; frealbuto@audubonintl.org.*

For More Information, Contact:

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