



The Adirondack Tremolo

2003 Summer Newsletter – Vol. 2, Issue 2

JOIN US FOR THE 2003 ANNUAL CENSUS! **Mark your calendars! Invite your friends!** **Our third Annual Census will be held from** **8-9a.m. on Saturday, July 19th, 2003!**

The Annual Census is an excellent opportunity to participate in the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program's loon research. ACLP's census enables us to monitor long-term trends of the loon population summering and breeding in the Adirondack Park and throughout New York State.

WANT TO SIGN UP FOR A LAKE?

We encourage census observers to sign up for a lake to prevent duplicate observations. A list and map of the assigned lakes will be posted to our website www.adkscience.org/loons in late June, and updated regularly throughout July. Please check the website to find out which lakes have already been assigned and which are still available.

Please note that a list of randomly selected lakes is posted to the website, as well as the lakes chosen by observers. The randomly selected lakes will enable us to better estimate the loon population in the Park. If possible, **please select one of the random lakes for your observations**. However, observations from other lakes are also welcome; thus, if you are unable to observe on a randomly selected lake, please choose a different one. **If you want to observe on the same lake as you did in 2002, you do not need to contact us – we will assume that you are observing on the same lake as last year unless we hear otherwise from you.**

If you would like to participate in the census, **please sign up for a lake by contacting ACLP's Program Manager at aclp2-prgm-mgr@juno.com or leave a message at (518) 891-8836** with your name, phone number, and the name of the lake you'd like to observe.

How do you get a Census Form?

Census forms will be sent in early July to all observers that sign up for a lake by July 5th.

Forms will also be available for downloading from our website, www.adkscience.org/loons.

Please remember to use a different census form for each lake.

Check our website for more information about ACLP's Annual Census!

www.adkscience.org/loons

- Sign up for your favorite census lake!
- See the census results from previous years!
- Download a census form if you need an extra one.
- Please read the "Helpful Hints for Participating in the Annual Census" to know how to record your observations accurately.

Many thanks to all of you who make our Annual Census possible – over 300 observers participated in 2002! We're looking forward to an excellent day on the water in 2003!

Why are Those Loons Wearing Colored Bands?

Some of the loons in the Adirondack Park now sport brightly colored bands on their legs as part of the mercury contamination research conducted by the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program. Thanks to these “bracelets”, our field staff are able to identify individual loons and learn more about their natural history and behavior.

Each banded loon is checked weekly during the breeding season by ACLP’s field staff, a group of dedicated paddlers who bravely expose themselves to blackflies, waves, wind, and rain (well...it’s not all bad... they do get to paddle all summer!). Through these regular observations, we can determine how many banded loons come back to their previous territories, nest, and raise chicks. When related to the mercury levels in the birds’ bodies, this information on return rates and reproductive success enables us to evaluate the impact of environmental mercury contamination on the loon population breeding in the Adirondack Park.

Mercury pollution, primarily from coal-fired power plants, results in accumulation of this toxin in fish and wildlife throughout northeastern North America and the world. In the Adirondacks, the NYS Department of Health has issued fish consumption advisories due, in part, to mercury contamination for many lakes in the Park. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation is currently conducting research on mercury contamination of fish throughout New York.

Learn more about our research and the effects of airborne mercury pollution on Adirondack ecosystems and wildlife on our website, www.adkscience.org/loons.

We are very grateful to SUNY ESF’s Adirondack Ecological Center, Paul Smith’s College Watershed Stewardship Program, and the Wildlife Conservation Society for providing staff and students to assist us in our field work monitoring the banded loons.

Help Support Our Efforts!

ACLP is funded through grants and donations to the Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks or to the Wildlife Conservation Society. ***Donations to NHMA or WCS for the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program are tax-deductible.***

Your contribution supporting our work enables us to continue this important conservation and education effort.

To 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***.
- ❖ **Linde Ostro** at the Wildlife Conservation Society: (718) 220-6891 or via e-mail: ***lostro@wcs.org***

Please specify that your donation is for the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program.

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 and Michale Glennon – Wildlife Conservation Society
- Rick Godin and Valerie Trudeau – Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks
- David Adams – NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
- David Evers – BioDiversity Research Institute of Falmouth, ME
- Fred Realbuto – Audubon Society of New York State, Inc.

Program Coordinator:

Nina Schoch

Program Manager:

Amy Sauer

To Contact the ACLP:

Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program
P.O. Box 195
Ray Brook, NY 12977
Phone: (518) 891-8836
E-mail: aclp2@juno.com
www.adkscience.org/loons

2003 Lead Sinker Exchange Project

It's summer! Time to get out on the water and test your skills against those wily Adirondack perch, pike, and trout! *Please fish responsibly while you're on Adirondack lakes and streams* – pick up loose fishing line to prevent animals from getting tangled in it, and use non-lead fishing tackle, which is not toxic to loons and other wildlife that accidentally ingest it.

Loons and other waterbirds normally swallow small pebbles as “grit” to help their gizzards break down bones from the fish they eat. There are often as many as 10-30 pebbles in the gizzard of a loon. Unfortunately, these birds occasionally mistake fishing tackle for pebbles, and then succumb to lead poisoning after ingesting lead sinkers or jigs. Lead poisoning due to fishing tackle ingestion is a source of mortality in adult loons throughout the northeastern North America.

Anglers! Take advantage of the opportunity to try alternative types of sinkers! During the summer of 2003, the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program is again coordinating our Lead Sinker Exchange Project at ~60 stores and boat launches throughout the Park (see table at right). Pick up a free sample of non-toxic sinkers and our “*Get the Lead Out*” brochure at one of the participating Sinker Exchange Sites. ***Please help us prevent lead toxicity in wildlife by dropping off your lead sinkers and jigs in the exchange box.***

This project is coordinated in conjunction with the National Wildlife Federation, and is funded through contributions to WCS and NHMA for the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program. We are grateful to Bullet Weights for their assistance in obtaining non-lead sinker samples for our exchange sites and to Elk Lake Lodge for their support of this project.

Many thanks to the exchange sites that are participating in this project, our dedicated staff and volunteers who are maintaining the exchange boxes this summer, and *especially* to the concerned anglers who help us get the lead out of Adirondack lakes and ponds by turning in their lead fishing tackle.

Please Visit One of ACLP's Sinker Exchange Sites!

Town	Lead Sinker Exchange Site
Adirondack	Adirondack General Store
Bloomington	River Road Bait & Tackle
Blue Mtn Lake	Blue Mtn Outfitters
Bolton Landing	Ann's Bait & Tackle Shop
Brant Lake	Daby's General Store
Caroga Lake	Canada Lakes Store and Marine
Chestertown	Crossroads General Store
Cranberry Lake	Emporium Marine
Crown Point	Norm's Bait & Tackle
Crown Point	Pat's Bait Shop
Dannemora	Outfitters Plus
Diamond Point	The Outdoorsman Sportshop
Eagle Bay	Dunn's Boat Works
Edinburg	LaPort's Bait Shop
Hague	Hague Boat Launch
Indian Lake	Pines Country Store
Indian Lake	Spring's Store
Inlet	Inlet Dept. Store
Inlet	Adirondack Community Information Center
Keene Valley	The Mountaineer
Keeseville	Arnold's Grocery
Lake Clear	Lake Clear General Store
Lake Clear	Mac's Canoe Livery
Lake Luzerne	Harris Grocery
Lake Placid	Blue Mtn Outfitters
Lake Placid	Jones Outfitters
Lake Pleasant	Abanake
Long Lake	Adirondack Outfitters of Long Lake
Long Lake	Helms Aero Service
Long Lake	Hoss's Country Corner
Merrill	Martin's Bait & Tackle
Newcomb	Cloudsplitters Outfitters
North Creek	Adirondack Community Information Center
North River	North Country Sports
Old Forge	Ace Hardware
Old Forge	Haderonda Company
Old Forge	Old Forge Hardware
Paul Smiths	Lake Placid Boat Launch
Paul Smiths	Upper Saranac Lake Boat Launch
Paul Smiths	Upper St. Regis Boat Launch
Piseco	Piseco Lake Lodge
Raquette Lake	Raquette Lake Supply Co.
Saranac	Sportsman's Paradise
Saranac Lake	Adirondack Fish Hatchery
Saranac Lake	Blue Line Sports Shop
Saranac Lake	St. Regis Canoe Outfitters
Schroon Lake	Outdoor Trading Post
Speculator	Tanner's Outdoor Sports
Star Lake	Adirondack Community Information Center
Thendara	Moose River Trading Company
Tupper Lake	Hickock's Boat Livery
Tupper Lake	Jessie's Bait Shop
Warrensburg	Nemec's Sport Shop & Farm & Garden Center
Wells	Lakeside General Store
Wevertown	Beaver Brook Outfitters
Willsboro	Indian Bay Marina
Wilmington	Ausable River Sportshop
Wilmington	Fran Better's Adirondack Sports Shop

Remember to Check Our Website!
www.adkscience.org/loons

- *Pick a lake for the 2003 Annual Census!*
- *Find a Lead Sinker Exchange Site near you!*
- *Come to an ACLP presentation!*
- *Want to learn more about loon natural history?*
- *Learn about environmental issues affecting Adirondack loons.*
- *Join our loon discussions!*

**Schedule a presentation for your
school or group about the
Adirondack Cooperative Loon
Program!**

Learn more about loon natural history and ACLP's research and education efforts! Please contact (518) 891-8836 or aclp2@juno.com

Want to Volunteer with ACLP?

- ❖ *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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