

Loon Log 2024

Dick West

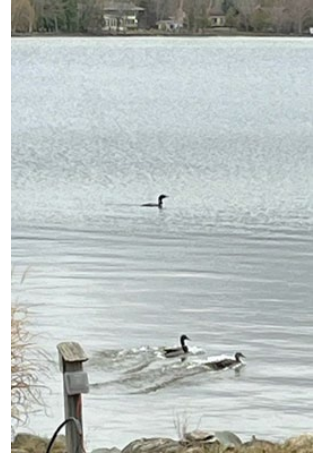
4.18.2024 MY FIRST LOON REPORT OF 2024

Greetings...and welcome to my first loon report for 2024.

This is my first loon report but certainly not the first report of loons on Intermediate Lake.

The first reported sighting confirmed by a picture that I got was on April 4 from Roseann and Paul Winkler. They sent this picture along, which certainly made me jealous as well as excited to know our loon watching season has begun.

That same loon then made its way across the lake to say hello to my fellow Loon Platoon member Andy Hickman. (I think it must have been one of the eagle tree pair cuz if it was one of the Gorham Beach pair I'm sure it would have stopped by to see me first!) That same day, Pat O'Connor spotted a loon by their place on Walleye Lane.



While I was at the lake at that time I had to wait until this trip up to make my first sighting. I got up here yesterday and Andy and I took advantage of an unexpected break in the windy, rainy weather to launch the two platforms in the south end...and there it was! As we rowed the platform out to its spot at the weed bed near the eagle tree, a loon was watching us...my first loon of the year! In fact, there THEY were...a pair of loons!! It's always fun to see your first loon of the year and extra fun to have a pair escorting us as we put their nesting platform in position. This is my first loon. You can see how close they were while we rowed the platform out to their weed bed.

Again this year we want to give a loud thank you to Jeremiah at The Maples Resort for providing a row boat to get those two platforms in place.

Andy took this picture of me yelling at him to quit taking pictures and get in the dang boat so we can get the job done and I can get my dinner!...or something like that...

Today I hope to get the platform out at the Green's property near the 90 degree turn of Intermediate Lake Drive. We are keeping our fingers crossed that the pair practicing on that one last year will return to it and get the job done properly.

The natural nesting site near Gorham Beach is high and dry at the moment. With the mild winter and early thaw the weeds in that spot are still present above water. That is not usually the case and should be an advantage for our pair that nest there. I just hope they don't nest in a spot that gets flooded if the water level comes up too high. Time will tell.



And of course, time will tell how many healthy chicks will be raised this summer...and if will we be privileged to have four loon families to watch.

Stay tuned...