

Loon Log 2025

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4.17.2025 WELCOME BACK LOONS AND LOON WATCHERS!

I have been getting reports of loons being back on Intermediate Lake since before the ice was gone. The reports started on April 3rd and the ice was gone on April 10th.

April 3rd was also the date the water level was at a record level of 9.11 feet according to the gage at the bridge in Central Lake. While the water level is still high it has been on a slow, steady decline since that date. The gage reading was 7.75 at 7pm today.

With the high water threat decreasing and some decent weather, the Loon Platoon got busy and launched the loon nesting platforms. Andy Hickman and I were joined by three others to get the job done. Bill Bailey, Duane Bush and Rich Ceuninck were a great help and now know the routine used to get the platforms in place and where to put them.

Yesterday there was a stiff northerly wind but the area at the Green's property was protected so we put on our waders and got that one in place.

Andy also put a platform out at his place near the Recreation Point sandbar yesterday.

This morning it was chilly but calm so we started from the Maples and rowed the southernmost platform to its spot. As we neared the usual weed bed a pair of loons was spotted in the area. They soon came over very close to us and both dove down as if to show us the spot they wanted the platform! It was so exciting to see that pair once again watching closely as we delivered their nesting platform. I'm sure they knew exactly what was going on.



We then moved to our launch site along M88. As that platform was towed to its location a pair of loons was also very close by watching the action. Again, it's just amazing that these birds are waiting in their spot for us humans to deliver the equipment they need.

The wind was building a bit but we decided to take the last platform to a spot in the far north end of the lake. Dover Corporation now owns the old De-Sta-Co property south of the campground and gave us permission to put a nesting platform along their shoreline. We get a lot of loon sightings in the north end so it makes sense to put a platform there. We will see if any loons like the accommodations.

Andy took this picture of Rich, me, Bill and Duane as we wrapped up the operation.

This afternoon I walked down to check out the little island near Gorham Beach. I was pleased to see the main weed bed and one sturdy bush survived the thick ice and high water. It is probably still too wet to nest on but there does appear to be a solid weed bed for the loons to work with soon.

So there you have it! The nesting platforms are in place...I have seen my first loons of the year...and you are getting the first loon report of 2025.



Our loon watching season is underway!

I hope all of you are able to get out and do your own loon watching soon.

Dick West