

2020 Loon Observations on Jack Lake



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Introduction

The Canada Lakes Loon Survey (CLLS) is a national research program coordinated by Bird Studies Canada. It is an annual Canada-wide survey of loons to monitor annual breeding success using the assistance of volunteers. CLLS monitoring of loon reproductive success has proven to be an effective indicator for monitoring broader lake health (McNicol et al. 1995).

Jack Lake volunteers have collected information on loons since 1982 (see Kerr et al. 2016). This document has been prepared to summarize loon observations on Jack Lake during 2020.

2020 Loon Observations

Despite the fact that the CLLS was officially cancelled in 2020 (due to the Covid-19 pandemic), Jack Lake volunteers were able to collect information on loons on Jack Lake.

Observations contained in this report were generated from two primary sources: (i) coordinated lakewide surveys which were held in June, July and August (Table 1), and (ii) random individual observations recorded throughout the course of the season. On October 22, a request for loon observations was made on the Jack Lake website. This resulted in 39 responses regarding late season loon sightings.

Table 1. Results of 2020 lakewide loon surveys on Jack Lake.

Survey Date	# of Adult Pairs	# of Young-of-Year	# Single Adults
June 14	5	0	6
July 19	8	2	7
August 23	6	3	10

A summary of key loon observations is presented in Table 2. The first record of loons on the lake was on April 5. This was shortly before the lake ice-free date of April 8 (Johnson 2020). There were eight adult pairs noted during the July 19 lakewide survey. Only one nest site was observed in 2020. This site was in Williams Bay west of the outlet dam. The first chicks were observed on June 29 (Callahan Bay), July 1 (Centre Bay) and July 6 (Sharpe's Bay). These hatching dates are similar to those documented in the past (Kerr et al. 2016). It is believed that only three of four of these chicks survived to the fall.

Juvenile loons were recorded on the lake as late as December 12. The majority of Jack Lake was ice covered by early-mid December.

Table 2. A summary of key loon observations from Jack Lake in 2020.

Parameter	Observation(s)
Arrival date(s)	Early April
Number of nesting pairs	5-8
Reproductive success	Four chicks observed
Abandoned nests	Unknown (None observed)
Observed hatching date(s)	Late June-Early July
Loon mortality	One young of year in Centre Bay
Adult flocking (pre migration) dates	Mid-late September
Juvenile migration dates	Early-mid December

Comparison with Earlier Surveys

Jack Lake volunteers have been involved in the Canada Lakes Loon Survey since 1982. While many of the earlier surveys did not involve the entire lake, multiple lakewide surveys have been conducted annually since 2013. When data from 2020 are compared to long term averages (Table 3), it can be seen that the number of nesting pairs was slightly above average while the number of large young-of-the-year was normal. Additional lakewide surveys in the future will serve to improve the accuracy of these estimates.

Table 3. Comparison of 2020 loon observations on Jack Lake with previous years.

Year	% of Lake Surveyed	Number of Breeding Pairs	Number of Large Young
1982	55%	5	1
1983	Unknown	8	3
1984	0%	-	-
1985	0%	-	-
1986	25%	5	4
1987	10%	1	1
1988	100%	1	0
1989	80%	2	2
1990	100%	10	0
1991	10%	1	2
1992	100%	1	0
1993	100%	Unknown	3
1994	20%	4	5
1995	40%	4	4
1996	55%	4	3
1997	37%	Unknown	1
1998	15%	Unknown	3
1999	60%	Unknown	5
2000	20%	Unknown	3
2001	25%	2	3
2002	25%	2	3
2003	30%	2	3

Table 3
(cont'd)

2004	0%	-	-
2005	10%	1	Unknown
2006	30%	2	Unknown
2007	60%	3	Unknown
2008	40%	3	3
2009	60%	3	1
2010	40%	2	2
2011	40%	4	2
2012	40%	3	3
2013	100%	5	3
2014	100%	3	4
2015	100%	6	4
2016	100%	4	4
2017	100%	4	8
2018	100%	7	6
2019	100%	7	9
2020	100%	5-8	3
1982-2020 Summary	0 – 100% (Mean = 53.3%)	1-10 (Mean = 4.0)	0 – 9 (Mean = 3.1)

Acknowledgements

Volunteers who participated in lakewide surveys as well as reporting miscellaneous observations included (listed alphabetically): Daryl Aitken, Tash Alves, Terry Bannock, Beth Brook, Karen Burleigh-Kerr, Paul Campbell, Tim Cork, Ruth Davenport, Mary Derks, Gladys Donman, Jan Dunnett-Perrin, Neil Freeman, Rebecca Gardner, Scott Hill, Todd Hill, Sheelagh Hysenaj, Jennifer Joel, Allan Kerr, Steven Kerr, Kate Kingdon, Ryan Kluake, Elizabeth Kroeker, David Lean, Selena Leger, Debi Lehman, Darlene Lomax, J. T. Mann, Mario McQuaker, Mike Mills, Diane Nicholls, Patricia Phillips, Tina Porter, Susan Quarry, Brad Reeves, Katie Robinson, Kim Simich, Max Steinman, Constance Strange, Stephanie Tuer, Debbie Vanderheyden, Terry Walsh, Pat Ward and Christina Welton.

References

- Johnson, W. [ed.]. 2020. Jack Lake 2020 ice-out date. p. 5 *In* the Summer 2020 Issue of Smoke Signals. Apsley, Ontario.
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- McNicol, D. K., M. L. Mallory and H. S. Vogel. 1995. Using volunteers to monitor the effects of acid precipitation on common loon (*Gavia immer*) reproduction in Canada: The Canada Lakes Loon Survey. *Water, Air and Soil Pollution* 85:463-468.

Appendix 1. Loon observations on Jack Lake in 2020.

Date	Time of Day	Location	Observation	Observer(s)	Misc. Comments
April 5	Unknown	Centre Bay	Loon heard calling	Tim Cork	First loon seen/heard this year.
April 18	Morning	Lanz Bay	One single adult loon.	Tim Cork	-
April 18	Morning	Sharpe's Bay	One pair of adult loons.	Tim Cork	-
April 18	Morning	Hatton Bay	One pair of adult loons.	Beth Brook	-
April 26	Morning	Not reported	One pair of adult loons.	Ruth Davenport	Photos taken.
May 11	Unknown	Centre Bay	One pair of adult loons	Sheelagh Hysenaj	-
Ma.y 31	Unknown	Brooks Bay (northwest)	One adult loon.	Sheelagh Hysenaj	Believed to be a nesting site.
June 3	Early Morning	The Cranery	One adult loon.	Tim Cork	Loon flattened itself when approached – nest nearby?
June 5	Late Afternoon	Rathbun Bay	One adult loon.	Steven and Karen Kerr	Loon displaying signs of distress.
June 6	Late Afternoon	Centre Bay	One adult loon	Steven and Karen Kerr	Loon swimming near a small island.
June 7	Unknown	Williams Bay (west of dam)	One adult loon observed sitting on nest.	Ruth Davenport	Photo taken.
June 7	Unknown	Sharpe's Bay	One adult loon in the middle of the bay.	Sheelagh Hysenaj	-
June 12	Mid Afternoon	Brooks Bay (northwest)	One adult loon.	Steven, Karen and Allan Kerr	-

Date	Time of Day	Location	Observation	Observer(s)	Misc. Comments
June 13	Afternoon	East Bay (west)	One adult loon.	Steven, Karen and Allan Kerr	-
June 13	Afternoon	Centre Bay (east)	One pair of adult loons.	Steven and Allan Kerr	-
June 13	Afternoon	Callahan Bay	One adult loon.	Steven and Allan Kerr	-
June 13	Evening	Sheeps Bay	One adult loon calling.	Steven and Allan Kerr	-
June 14	Morning	Entire Lake	Six single adults and five pairs of adults.	Misc. Volunteers	No nests observed
June 15	Early Evening	Sheeps Bay	One adult loon.	Unrecorded	-
June 15	Early Evening	Robbins Bay	One adult loon.	Unrecorded	-
June 15	Early Evening	Centre Bay (east)	One pair of adult loons.	Unrecorded	-
June 19	Late Afternoon	Rathbun Bay	One adult loon	Unrecorded	-
June 19	Early Evening	Callahan Bay	One adult loon.	Unrecorded	-
June 20	Mid Day	Rathbun Bay (south)	One adult loon.	Steven and Karen Kerr	-
June 20	Unknown	Centre Bay (east)	One pair of adult loons.	Unrecorded	-
June 21	Unknown	East Bay	One pair of adult loons.	Daryl Aitken	-
June 29	Mid Afternoon	Rathbun Bay	One adult loon	Steven Kerr	-
June 29	Lake Afternoon	Callahan Bay	One adult loon with one chick.	Steven Kerr	-

Date	Time of Day	Location	Observation	Observer(s)	Misc. Comments
June 29	Early Evening	Centre Bay (east)	One pair of adult loons.	Steven Kerr	-
June 30	Late Afternoon	Centre Bay	One pair of adult loons	Selena Leger	-
June 30	Late Afternoon	Sheeps Bay	One pair of adult loons.	Selena Leger	-
July 1	Early Afternoon	Centre Bay	One pair of adult loons with two chicks.	Selena Leger	One chick was on the back of each parent.
July 1	Late Afternoon	Robbins Bay (near narrows)	One adult loon.	Selena Leger	-
July 1	Early Evening	Rathbun Bay	Four adult loons.	Unrecorded	No chicks present.
July 2	Evening	Sharpe's Bay	Seven adult loons all together	Tim Cork and Susan Quarry	No chicks present.
July 2	Evening	Williams Bay	One pair of adult loons.	Tim Cork	No chicks present.
July 5	Late Afternoon	Sheeps Bay (east)	Three adult loons.	Unrecorded	No chicks present
July 6	Early Morning	Sharpe's Bay	One adult loon and one chick.	Patty Phillips	Chick was riding on its mother's back. Photo taken.
July 10	Early Evening	Brooks Bay	Two adult loons	Unrecorded	No chicks present
July 10	Early Evening	Sharpe's Bay (north)	Two adult loons	Unrecorded	No chicks present.
July 10	Early Evening	Sharpe's Bay	Two adult loons	Unrecorded	No chicks present.
July 10	Early Evening	Callahan Bay	One adult loon with one chick.	Unrecorded	-
July 18	Mid Day	Rathbun Bay	One adult loon	Steven Kerr	-

Date	Time of Day	Location	Observation	Observer(s)	Misc. Comments
July 18	Afternoon	Callahan Bay	Two adult loons with one chick.	Steven Kerr	-
July 18	Afternoon	Sheeps Bay	One adult loon	Steven Kerr	-
July 18	Evening	Sharpe's Bay	Four adult loons swimming together.	Neil Freeman	-
July 19	Morning	Entire Lake	Eight pairs of adult loons, seven single adult loons and two chicks.	Misc. Volunteers	Chicks were noted in Callahan Bay and McCoy Bay.
July 30	Unknown	Sharpe's Bay	Eight adult loons	Mario McQuaker	-
July 31	Afternoon	Rathbun Bay	Two adult loons	Steven and Karen Kerr	No chicks present.
July 31	Afternoon	Brooks Bay	Two adult loons	Steven and Karen Kerr	No chicks present
July 31	Evening	Rathbun Bay	One pair of adult loons.	Steven and Karen Kerr	No chicks present.
August 1	Afternoon	East Bay	One adult loon.	Steven Kerr	-
August 1	Afternoon	Rathbun Bay	One adult loon.	Steven Kerr	Loon had a fish in its mouth.
Early August	Unknown	Redmond Bay	One adult and one juvenils	Sheelagh Hysenaj	-
August 5	Evening	Sharpe's Bay	One single adult	Karen Burleigh-Kerr	-
August 6	Late Afternoon	Brooks Bay	One pair of adult loons.	Steven Kerr	-
August 6	Late Afternoon	Sheeps Bay	One pair of adult loons.	Steven Kerr	-
August 6	Late Afternoon	Callahan Bay (west)	One adult loon with one large chick.	Steven Kerr	-

Date	Time of Day	Location	Observation	Observer(s)	Misc. Comments
August 9	Unknown	Rathbun Bay	One pair of adult loons.	Steven Kerr	No chicks present
August 9	Unknown	Lanz Bay	One pair of adult loons with one chick.	Steven Kerr	-
August 14	Afternoon	Rathbun Bay	One single adult	Steven Kerr	-
August 15	Afternoon	Robbins Bay (at Narrows)	One single adult	Steven Kerr	-
	Afternoon	Rathbun Bay	One single adult	Steven Kerr	-
August 16	Noon	Rathbun Bay	One pair of adults "fishing"	Steven Kerr	-
August 20	Evening	East Bay	One adult and one large juvenile	Steven Kerr	-
August 21	Afternoon	Narrows	One single adult	Steven Kerr	-
August 21	Afternoon	East Bay	One single adult	Steven Kerr	-
August 21	Afternoon	"Lanz" Bay	Two adults with one juvenile	Steven Kerr and Karen Burleigh-Kerr	-
August 21	Afternoon	Centre Bay (east)	One single adult	Karen Burleigh-Kerr	-
August 22	Morning	Rathbun Bay	One single adult "fishing"	Steven Kerr and Karen Burleigh-Kerr	-
August 22	Afternoon	Robbins Bay	Two single adults (pair?)	Steven Kerr	-
August 22	Evening	Williams Bay (northwest)	Two adults with one juvenile	Steven Kerr	-
August 23	Morning	Entire Lake	Six pairs of adults, 10 single adults and 3 juvenile loons	Misc. Volunteers	-

Date	Time of Day	Location	Observation	Observer(s)	Misc. Comments
August 28	Evening	Centre Bay (east)	One adult	Steven and Allan Kerr	-
August 30	Afternoon	Rathbun Bay	One adult "fishing"	Steven Kerr	-
August 30	Afternoon	Centre Bay	Two adults	Karen Burleigh-Kerr	-
August 31	Afternoon	Rathbun Bay	One adult "fishing"	Karen Burleigh-Kerr	-
August 31	Afternoon	Williams Bay (west)	One pair of adults with one young-of-year.	Steven Kerr and Karen Burleigh-Kerr	-
August 31	Afternoon	Robbins Bay/The Narrows	One adult loon	Steven Kerr and Karen Burleigh-Kerr	-
August 31	Afternoon	East Bay	One adult with one young-of-year	Steven Kerr and Karen Burleigh-Kerr	-
September 4	Evening	Rathbun Bay	One adult	Steven Kerr	-
September 5	Afternoon	Robbins Bay	One adult	Steven Kerr	-
September 5	Evening	Robbins Bay	One adult with one young-of-year	Steven Kerr	Windy
September 5	Afternoon	Rathbun Bay	One pair of adults	Steven Kerr	Loons were quite voiciferous
September 6	Noon	Callahan Bay	One young-of-year	Steven Kerr and Karen Burleigh-Kerr	-
September 6	Noon	Rathbun Bay (north)	One adult	Steven Kerr	-
September 6	Afternoon	Williams Bay	One adult	Karen Burleigh-Kerr	-

Date	Time of Day	Location	Observation	Observer(s)	Misc. Comments
September 25	Afternoon	Rathbun Bay	One adult	Steven Kerr	-
September 27	Midday	Brooks Bay (west)	One adult	Karen Burleigh-Kerr	-
September 27	Evening	Centre Bay	One adult with one young-of-year	Steven Kerr and Karen Burleigh-Kerr	-
September 27	Evening	Centre Bay (south)	One pair of adults	Steven Kerr and Karen Burleigh-Kerr	-
October 2	Afternoon	Sheeps Bay	One young-of-year	Steven Kerr and Karen Burleigh-Kerr	-
October 3	Afternoon	Rathbun Bay	One young-of-year	Steven Kerr and Karen Burleigh-Kerr	-
October 3	Afternoon	Brooks Bay	One young-of-year	Steven Kerr and Karen Burleigh-Kerr	-
October 9	Evening	Centre Bay (southwest)	Two young-of-year together	Steven Kerr and Karen Burleigh-Kerr	-
October 10	Afternoon	Centre Bay (southwest)	Two young-of-year together	Steven Kerr and Karen Burleigh-Kerr	-
October 17-18	Not reported	Not reported	One single loon	Debi Lehman	-
October 17-18	Not reported	Redmond Bay	One single loon	J. T. Mann	-
		Sharpe's Bay	Two loons observed	J. T. Mann	-
		The Narrows	Two loons observed.	J. T. Mann	-

Date	Time of Day	Location	Observation	Observer(s)	Misc. Comments
October 17-18	Not reported	Sheeps Bay	One single loon observed	Terry Walsh	-
October 19	Afternoon	Sharpe's Bay	One juvenile loon observed	Mario McQuaker	
October 20	Not Reported	McCoy Bay	One single loon observed	Jennifer Joel	-
October 22	Afternoon	Sharpe's Bay (Jackson Bay)	Three loons observed	Ryan Kluake	Multiple loon sightings during the past week.
October 22	Evening	Sheeps Bay (Sheep Island)	Several loons (believed to be 3) heard calling	Mary Derks	-
October 22	Evening	Brooks Bay	Loon(s) heard calling'	Constance Strange	=
October 22	Not reported	Sharpe's Bay (south end)	One single loon	Mike Mills	-
October 23	Afternoon	Callahan Bay	One single loon	Stephanie Tuer	-
	Afternoon	Williams Bay	Two loons observed	Stephane Tuer	-
October 23	Midday	Brooks Bay	One loon observed	Diane Nicholls	-
October 23	Afternoon	Sharpe's Bay (south end)	One loon observed	Max Steinman	-
October 23	Afternoon	Sharpe's Bay	Two loons observed	Glady Donman	
October 23	Afternoon	Redmond Bay	One loon observed	Kim Simich	-
October 23	Afternoon	Sheeps Bay	One loon observed	Constance Strange and Mary Derks	Young-of-the-year based on coloration.

Date	Time of Day	Location	Observation	Observer(s)	Misc. Comments
October 23	Afternoon	Tucker Bay	One juvenile loon observed	Kate Kingdon	-
October 24	Morning	Williams Bay	One loon observed	Stephanie Tuer	-
October 24	Morning	Redmond Bay	One loon observed	Debbie Vanderheyden	-
October 24	Morning	Sheeps Bay	One loon observed	Paul Campbell	-
October 24	Afternoon	Rathbun Bay	One juvenile loon observed.	Ruth Davenport	-
October 24	Not reported	Williams Bay	Two juvenile loons were observed	Darlene Lomax	-
October 26	Not reported	Rathbun Bay	One juvenile loon was observed	Terry Bannock	-
October 27	Morning	Sharpe's Bay	Two juvenile loons were observed.	David Lean	-
October 27	Not reported	Sharpe's Bay	Three loons (all juveniles) observed together	Ryan Kluake	-
October 29	Afternoon	Redmond Bay	One juvenile loon observed	Brad Reeves	-
October 29	Afternoon	Brooks Bay	One juvenile loon observed	Brad Reeves	-
October 30	Not reported	Redmond Bay	Two loons observed	Todd Hill	-Age/life stage of loons not reported
October 31	Afternoon	Sheeps Bay	Single juvenile loon observed "fishing"	Paul Campbell	-
November 3	Not reported	Narrows	One juvenile loon observed	Scott Hill	=

Date	Time of Day	Location	Observation	Observer(s)	Misc. Comments
November 4	Morning	Brooks Bay	One juvenile loon observed	Brad Reeves	-
November 6	Morning	Sharpe's Bay	Two juvenile loons observed	J.T. Mann	-
November 6	Not reported	Brooks Bay	One juvenile loon observed	Todd Hill	-
November 8	Not reported	Sheeps Bay	One juvenile loon observed.	Paul Campbell	-
November 11	Morning	Hatton bay	One loon observed	Tina Porter	-
November 12	Not reported	Sharpe's Bay	One loon observed	Christena Welton	-
November 13	Morning	Sharpe's Bay	One loon observed	Christena Welton	-
November 13	Afternoon	Redmond Bay (southwest)	Two loons observed	Rebecca Gardner	-
November 14	Not reported	Sheeps Bay	One juvenile loon observed	Paul Campbell	-
November 16	Morning	Centre Bay (east)	One juvenile loon observed	David Lean	- Light snow.
November 18	Morning	Bowers Bay	One loon observed	Blu Playford	-
November 20	Morning	Sheeps Bay	One juvenile loon observed	Elizabeth Kroeker	-
November	Morning	Mosquito Bay (Sharpe's Bay)	One loon observed	Christina Welton	-
December 5	Midday	Sharpe's Bay	One juvenile loon observed	Christina Welton	-
December 5	Afternoon	Sheeps Bay	One juvenile loon observed	Paul Campbell	-

Date	Time of Day	Location	Observation	Observer(s)	Misc. Comments
December 6	Afternoon	McCoy Bay	Flock of at least twenty loons observed	Tash Alves	-
December 7	Midday	Sharpe's Bay	One loon observed	Christina Welton	-
December 12	Morning	Crane Bay	One loon observed	Jan Dunnett-Perrin	-
