

All;

Here is great news about our loon population. Although this is a major breakthrough in reestablishing loons on our lakes, I want to emphasize Jeff's caution: the best thing we can do is just leave them alone. If we avoid the area altogether, we give this new family the best chance for success.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions,

Dave Droste
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Jul 8, 2015

J Lange <uncommonloons@gmail.com>

Dave,

Crooked Lake is poised to have its first chicks to hatch in...well, in almost anyone's memory. The Rocky Point nesting pair are nearly finished incubating their eggs and if all goes well, the chick(s) will be on the water soon. This means, at some time, these chicks and parents will have to contend with a multitude of dangers. First they must contend with the numerous, and giant, gar that cruise the shallows inside the cove where we figure the loons will spend their first couple weeks. Eventually, they'll have to face the busier sections of the lake, as they grow and need more and bigger fish. Watercraft traffic will pose a serious peril to the loon family, especially for chicks that separate from their parents, who might challenge the threats some boats present.

It's anyone's guess how this historically first loon family will fare this busy summer season, but we can make their life easier by spreading the word of their presence, and cautioning folks to look out for them, and most important, to give them lots of space. Viewing them from a distance is much preferred. Following them around will upset the parents, and cause them to break away from the chicks to address what they see as a threat. Please enjoy the lake with particular caution this season, so we can see this loon family through their first nesting season successfully and safely.

Anyone wanting loon alert signs, pamphlets, or other loon-related literature, please contact me.

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"This preservation of favorable variations and the rejection of injurious variations, I call Natural Selection." *Darwin*