



WHITE LAKE Property Owners Association
Environment Volunteers



ENVIRONMENT BULLETIN

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2021 White Lake Loon Count

March 18, 2022

The White Lake loon survey was completed by *Joyce Benham and Bob Carrière* from June 26 to July 3, 2021. Last year, the infestation of a black fly impacted on nesting loons, resulting in a drop of nesting pairs from 12 to 2 and chick production from 23 to 4 as compared to the previous year.

We were hoping for a quick recovery in loon numbers in 2021, but it was clear that for some reason, there were again relatively few loons returning to the lake. We did notice that a few nesting loons were still incubating their eggs during the survey period. It is possible that there may have been a few more chicks not included in the count.

Since the arrival of zebra mussels in White Lake, we continue to observe very high water clarity and the proliferation of aquatic plants. Areas which were easily reached by boat in previous years are now choked with aquatic plants. This year we also observed in many parts of the lake the presence of nuisance filamentous green algae forming large ‘clouds’ of green just under the surface of the lake and often extending to the lake bed.

The table below summarizes the loon count for 2021 and represents loon sightings at 14 different locations on White Lake.

Summary of Loon observations for 2021:

Total number of adult loons:	27
Number of nesting pairs:	5
Total number of chicks:	5

OBSERVATION	2013	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of Adults	23	40	32	45	44	38	25	27
Number of Nesting Pairs	7	10	11	19	10	12	2	5
Number of Chicks	16	17	16	21	18	23	4	5

The above table summarizes the results of loon surveys for eight years starting in 2013. It is clear that 2021 was a difficult year for loons. The number of loons returning to the lake did not substantially recover from the low numbers of 2020. Nesting pairs were also very low as were the number of chicks produced.



Photo Credit: Joyce Benham