



**Re: The Number of Common Loons on Bay Lake as of Tuesday, July 28, 2020:**

I know that all of you, like me, completely and totally love having so many Common Loons on our lake. I have been a “DNR Counter” of our treasured loons for a number of years here on Bay Lake.

I think that all of us on Bay Lake year in and year out are worried about the implications of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill several years ago because the bulk of Minnesota Loons spend their winters in the Gulf. Now, of course, we have the growing threat of Global Climate Change. No matter what: America has about 24,000 loons. Minnesota has about half of them—12,000 loons. We have to do everything we can to promote and save the loons of Minnesota and America.

But I have very good news to report. On Tuesday, July 28, my wife, Ruth Ann, our son, Andrew, and I realized that that Tuesday night the waters of Bay Lake were incredibly calm.

I am very pleased to report that the three of us LOCATED 35 LOONS SPREAD NICELY AROUND ALL OF THE BAYS ON OUR LAKE. We saw 34 adult loons and one juvenile. Indeed, we saw our beloved loons everywhere on the lake.

I have been a DNR loon counter for a number of years. Over that period of time, I have estimated that the total number of loons on Bay Lake is somewhere between 33 and 38. For me, as a student of Minnesota loons, I think we are blessed because we have a number of bays where the loons are scattered. Some bays have 3 or 4 loons and a few might have 6 or 7. But I am thrilled to report we have at least 35 as of August 2020. I just asked Dean Hansen how many bays does Bay Lake have. His estimate is 12. That means that each bay has about 3 loons. If Dean says we have about 12 bays, we have 12 bays!

Ladies and gentlemen, all of this together means that Bay Lake is still an inviting lake for the singular and most beautiful bird in Minnesota.

In a paper that I wrote and many of you have read it, I titled my paper on the loons as THE MOST MAGICAL BIRD IN THE WORLD: THE COMMON LOON.

Let me repeat a line from my Loon paper while I was President of K-State, “Whenever I see a Loon on Bay Lake, I stop everything I am doing. I am transfixed because I am watching an historic and extraordinary bird. I am watching the most MAGICAL bird in the world. I am watching a bird from the deep recesses of the past. I AM WATCHING A BIRD OF MONUMENTAL CALMNESS, SEENITYH, AND CONFIDENCE. I am watching a bird that has gained the reverence and admiration of poets and writers alike.”

In talking about the 4 calls of the loons, Alan Hutchinson in his book entitled JUST LOONS said: “The Common Loon is a symbol of wilderness and of special places untarnished. The loon of 20 million years is a touchstone to the natural world and to our past and, perhaps to things unknown. Could that be why the call of the loon provokes such mystery?”

I think you all get the idea of why I call the loon THE MOST MAGICAL BIRD IN THE WORLD.

Have a good rest of the summer.

Jon Wefald



*The pictures in this article are from NorthernImages.com. We sincerely thank Denny Ohara for allowing us to copy them .....and we urge all BayLakers to visit his site.*