

“A VIEW FROM THE LOG CABIN”

by Harriet Doolittle

I just got word from our editor that the submission date for articles has been moved up into May. This allows me to share a neat happening from last fall at Tripp Lake.

I, like all of us I am sure, continue to be delighted and fascinated with the loons that inhabit our lake. The first call heard each spring and the first sighting is always reassuring to me that all is well on Tripp Lake. My bedroom bay window faces the cove on the north side of my point of land and this always seems to be a favorite fishing spot for the loons living in this part of the lake. Also every morning after I wake up I spend varying lengths of time just enjoying the view and hoping for either a loon or bald eagle sighting. The time spent awaiting the sight of some bird or animal doing its early morning thing on the lake is always rewarding to me. One thing that I have never seen is loon chicks with their parents. I have sighted loon chicks on their mothers' backs on Middle Range Pond but never on Tripp. This past September I was finally treated to an ongoing (for several weeks) and delightful scenario. One of the parent loons was teaching an adolescent, almost fully-fledged youngster, to fish. They did a lot of calling to each other and when one or the other lost track of its partner the cries were quite plaintive. They fished the waters around the point and almost always ended up in the cove on the north side. The parent would start out feeding fish to the youngster; then the young one would start diving, always with careful parental supervision. This continued for about a week to ten days; my friend from Portland who visited for several days each week watched them with me. Finally one day the parent must have flown away because junior loon was sitting out in front of my dock looking and sounding quite forlorn. Then a few days later we could see him/her fishing alone and trying his new wing feathers. We were able to observe this activity with a second parent and adolescent. It was great fun and we were both delighted to know that at least two young loons had made it that far in development on Tripp Lake. We each expressed a hope that they would be mature enough be able to fly away with the fall migration. So we both left the cabin in mid-October with our first sighting of loons raised on Tripp in our memories. Hopefully the 2008 season will bring another opportunity to observe the loon chicks in some phase of their development.



Here's to the summer 2008. Only five more weeks until my northern migration takes place. Hope the snow is all gone and the road passable! To the Fernald Road Assoc.: Please do not feel obligated to leave me any slippery mud or road washouts to greet my arrival. ~ Harriet A Doolittle, VMD (retired) April 17, 2008

ITEMS OF INTEREST

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Chair and has a working committee including John Laskey, John Crouch of Range Pond, and Sue Ellis of Thompson Lake. Please talk with any one of them of your thoughts, concerns and conservation ideas. Monthly meetings will be the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 8 AM in the Conference room. You can reach Don at dstover@ime.net. The following is their mission statement: "The purpose of the Poland Conservation Commission is to study the value of lands in Poland that may be important for outdoor recreation, as water resources, as wildlife habitats, for timber harvesting, farming, historic or scenic value with a goal of implementing stewardship and preservation where appropriate."

✓ We would love to have more recipes. Send to TLIA, PO Box 33, Poland 04274 or Linda Laskey at ormpoland@roadrunner.com. Thank you much.

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