

Mississippi Lake Loon Survey 2018 Results

Conducted by Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists members and Mississippi Lakes Association boat drivers.

Loon Count Numbers	2007	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2016	2017	2018
Max # of adults	24	35	35	39	40	43	35	37	78
Max # mated pairs	10	12	11	12	13	12	17	18	28
Max # young	8	7	5	8	8	12	17	9	14
Actual chick survival							7	6	8

Summary Report

- An orientation meeting was held at the MVCA Gatehouse in May, with 22 persons present.
- Four teams of two to four observers, plus boat drivers, conducted surveys on four different sections of the lake, three times during the summer; end of June, end of July and end of August.

Note: It was great to have so many extra observers stepping forward. Boat drivers agreed to take more than two observers. This gives us more trained observers for future years.

- Very unusual for so early in the year, a large number of un-mated adult loons were seen throughout July and August in groups from five to eight which accounted for the great increase from last year of adult loons recorded (37 to 78). All sections of the lake recorded an increase of paired loons from last year (18 to 28) and the maximum number of chicks counted was higher than last year (9-14).
- Two chicks in the lower lake seemed to have survived this year (none last year).
- Only four chicks in all were found in June; twelve were found in July, but only eight were found surviving by the end of Aug. (two more than last year).
- Assuming two eggs per mated pair, that means a 16% survival.

Note: 10 % survival rate across Canada is considered good for any lake so Mississippi Lakes are well above average this year; a good health of the lake indicator.

- MVFN would like to do the count again next year.
- Survey report submitted to Bird Studies Canada.

Report submitted by Cliff Bennett Compiler