

# 2013 Loon Report



## **Background Information:**

*Almost all of Minnesota's loons spend the winter in the Gulf of Mexico. No one knows the full impact of the Gulf Oil Spill of 2010, but most certainly it negatively affected the loon population.*

*Then, in the fall of 2012, approximately 900 loons died from Botulism poisoning from eating Goby Fish on the bottom of Lake Michigan while migrating from Canada, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. The fish had eaten tiny worms and fresh water shrimp that were suffering from botulism.*



## **Current Situation:**

*Minnesota has over half of the nation's 22,000 loons and despite the losses in 2010 and 2012, experts believe the population for 2013 is "stable." What does that mean? Minnesota's loon population is estimated to be somewhere between 10,000 to 11,000.*

## **Early Summer Loon Count & Preliminary Conclusions:**

*In riding around the lake we counted 13 loons. Based on the 13 we saw (and knowing we likely missed some and that the 13 we saw likely had mates sitting on their nest), my guess is there are at least 30 loons on our different bays. In short, I think Bay Lake has the same number of loons as in the past decade or so.*

**Note:** *The mid-summer (July 28th) loon count concluded that the population is likely close to 35.*

*-The information is from a report by Jon Wefald, BayLaker, loon counter & resident expert. The text has been significantly modified but (hopefully) it correctly represents Jon's report.*

*-The photos were taken by Wayne Kohnen.*

**Thanks, Jon & Wayne!**

