



# THE LOON

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## Tim's Cove Property Owners Association

APRIL 1992

With this issue Tim's Cove Property Owners Association inaugurates a news-letter, THE LOON, in response to the vote of those assembled at the annual meeting on July 6, 1991. It is the hope and the objective of this effort to establish an effective line of communication with all who spend time at Sebec Shores each year, and to enhance the collective enjoyment and appreciation of this uniquely fine community. Your ideas and thoughts on ways and means that will contribute to the accomplishment of this objective are earnestly solicited. Your editor will be pleased to receive them.

THE COMMON LOON: A bird whose existence on earth has been virtually unchanged for 60,000,000 years. It is the only loon to nest in the continental United States. Generally thought to mate for life. The plumage of both sexes is identical. It breeds on fresh-water lakes. A shy bird, easily disturbed by the close presence of man. It feeds largely by diving and pursuing fish under water, but also feeds on crustaceans, frogs and insects. The loon can remain under water up to 3 minutes, but usually something less. Its nest is built in a sheltered area, as close to the water as possible, of matted grasses, rushes etc. Loons cannot walk on land. Two eggs are most frequently laid in mid-May to late June. Incubated constantly by both sexes for about 29 days. Frequently, only one chick will hatch. Because of their timidity in the presence of man, it is best to avoid any area where they are nesting and incubating until the eggs hatch, lest they abandon the nest. The coal black chick leaves the nest immediately and does not return. The parents feed the chick whole fish. After 10-13 days they are skilled swimmers and divers. They have the ability to fly approximately 70-77 days after hatching. The four basic calls are: "tremelo", the loon's laughter, the "yodel", a repeated, undulating call, usually between dusk and early mornings, the "wail", or long call, and "talking", simple, often one syllable notes appearing to be conversational. The common loon species is currently under considerable pressure due to loss of habitat, and the growing disturbance by man. (Recommended reading: "THE LOON: VOICE OF THE WILDERNESS", by Joan Dunning. A short, informative and delightful book)

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD: From time to time occasions arise when a means of conveying information to everyone is desirable, and in some instances, necessary. To satisfy this need a community bulletin board will be put up at the Y. It is suggested that you keep an eye on it as you pass by for any information that may be posted from time to time. It can also be used by the association members for posting items for sale, etc., or other information that would be of common interest. To keep the board orderly, and current, any notice should be given to the Secretary (997-3242) who will see that it is properly posted.

"Y" CLEAN UP: At a meeting of the directors a proposal was made, and endorsed, that the "Y" be made more presentable to all who must see it upon approaching the area. Presently, it is pretty unattractive and messy looking. Kathy Ring has agreed to serve as leader of this effort. Anyone interested in participating in the planning, as well as the execution of the plan itself, will be most welcomed. Please contact Kathy at 213 Tim's Cove Rd. Help is needed.

911 EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM: The 911 system that was described to us at the annual meeting is expected to go on line on May 29, 1992. Roads have been named and each piece (lot) of property has been given a new, permanent road number. Your new number is your address in the event of mail service ever being instituted. (Your Sebec Shore lot number remains as the identification of your property on the title or deed, but otherwise serves no function.) The new 911 number is the only number recognizable to the 911 dispatcher. You are requested to place your new address number only in a conspicuous place at the head of your drive, with the numerals easily read at a distance. Assume that conditions will be the worst when an ambulance driver must find your house number on a rainy, pitch-black night. Every Sebec Shore lot, whether with or without a building has a 911 address. An unoccupied lot need not be signed. If you have any questions, please call John Bygrave at 997-3242.



THE NATURE CORNER: There are a suprising number of fern varieties in Maine and in our immediate area and that provides an opportunity for an interesting hobby. Many of them look pretty much the same, but they are not. There is a small pocket-sized paper-backed booklet, about 4"x6" that makes the identification procedure very easy and rather quick. Called "FERN FINDER" and sells for about \$2.50. Some of you might be interested in pursuing this interesting subject. I have a copy of the booklet if you would like to look at it and can help you get one if it is not available at a local bookstore.

There are a good number of warbler species that nest here in the Sebec Shores area. As a species warblers are quite small. Being insect eaters, they usually feed in the foliage, some high in the trees, others low in the underbrush, some in between. Consequently, they are not the easiest to find and observe. Each warbler species has its own distinctive song or call which gives us a good chance to locate them when they are actively feeding in the dense foliage and to get a view of them with our binoculars.

Two very common species, each with an easily recognized song are the COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (not to be confused with the yellow throated warbler) and the NORTHERN PARULA. They will be singing in earnest from May into July, hence a good time to find them

The Common Yellowthroat inhabits the bushes and brushy areas, staying low, seldom going more than 8 to 10 feet above ground. The male bird is the more distinctively marked with a broad black mask across the eyes (the bandit bird), yellow throat and breast, the back and wings being dark olive. Their song appears to be saying "witchity, witchity, witchity, witchity". Easily recognized. It is a ground nester. Listen and look for it along the lakeshore where there is good undergrowth or in bushy areas in open ground raspberry patches, etc. Packards has had one every year in the dry brookbed by the footbridge in front of the main farmhouse.

The Northern Parula is one of the smallest of the warbler species, 4½". It feeds high in the trees and hence about the best way to locate it is to listen for its song—a buzzy trill, ending with an abrupt zip. Hard to describe, but once heard, easily remembered. Blue-gray above, with a distinctive yellowish-green upper back, two bold white wingbars, white eye-ring broken by a black line running through the eye. Throat bright yellow. The nest is made from the tree lichen "old man's beard" (Usnea). The nest hangs from a tree branch, the bottom looking very much like a tennis ball.

Anyone interested in hearing the songs of these two birds, or others, are welcome to listen to the tapes that I have, Just let me know.

911 NUMBERS: Another reminder to those who have not done so to please post your new street address number at the head of your driveway in a highly visible spot. Without that number posted an emergency vehicle will not be able to come to your assistance when needed. BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY. If you need an aluminum square I have one for you. 997-3242.

MEMBERSHIP FEE: Attached is your membership fee notice for 1993. We strongly urge you to please send in your check prior to May 30. The Board of Directors will meet on that date and will initiate the plans for the necessary road work to be done. Paying your fee now, rather than waiting for the annual meeting, will greatly help the board to do what is necessary to everyone's benefit. Please act now before you forget it. Many thanks.

SAFETY FIRST: Again, a plea for a safe visit when you are at the lake. One thing that is a concern of some of us is the reckless riding of RVs on the road by some of the young children. It may look safe because there is no traffic in view, but control can easily be lost and good chance of someone being seriously injured. Do what you can to avoid this possibility.

Board of Directors Meeting; Sunday May 30, 1993 at 10:00 AM

Annual Meeting: Sunday July 4, 1993 at 10:00 AM

Both meetings at the Snyder's, 164 S. Cove Rd.

Editor: JHB

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#### 911 System Up-Date

Since the printing of the information in The Loon about the 911 system, I have learned from Dick Hartley that only Dover-Foxcroft, Sebec and Bowerbank will go on line on May 29th. These towns are all covered by the 564 telephone exchange. Sebec Shores as a part of Willimantic is in the 997 exchange emanating from Monson. Monson and Willimantic must complete negotiations with the telephone company before the 997 exchange can be tied into the 911 system. The best guess is that it will be in September before we will have access to the system. Consequently, continue to contact the emergency services, when needed, as you have in the past. I will try to keep you advised of any significant developments. Watch the bulletin board.

One other recent piece of news is the announcement by the N E Telephone of the modernization of the Dover-Foxcroft, Guilford, Dexter and Monson switching centers on May 29th. This will permit the use of touch-tone equipment, plus many other advanced communication features.

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