

2002 LOON COUNT

from Maine Audubon
Society

In July 2002, a record 953 volunteer loon counters turned out to count 1,704 adults and 187 chicks on 328 lakes in Maine. The adult population remained virtually unchanged from last year, though the number of chicks has dropped after a steady increase since 1998. This may have been due in part to poor visibility on the day of the count. Or the deluge of rain during peak nesting season that caused flooded nests.

Here on Cold Stream, we counted 13 adults and 4 chicks. This is an increase of 2 chicks over 2001, even with no count taken in the Webb Cove area. As the counters will remember, very rough water met them that morning. Pat and Jeanne Carney went out at 7 a.m. to take off for Webb Cove only to find their boat swamped with waves coming in over the end! Let's hope for calm water and a little sun this year!

