



BASIC LOON RESCUE & TRANSPORT WEBINAR

Hosted by Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates
Presented by Loon Rescue Inc.



<https://mnlakesandrivers.org/>



LOON RESCUE, INC.

A Non Profit Organization

715-966-5415

715-453-4916



KEVIN & LINDA GRENZER

Loon Capture & Transport

Marge Gibson - Raptor Education Group Inc.

Kevin & Linda Grenzer - Loon Rescue

John Cooley & Caroline Hughes - Loon Preservation Committee

Mark Pokras - Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine

Jay Mager - Ohio Northern University

Nina Schoch - Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation

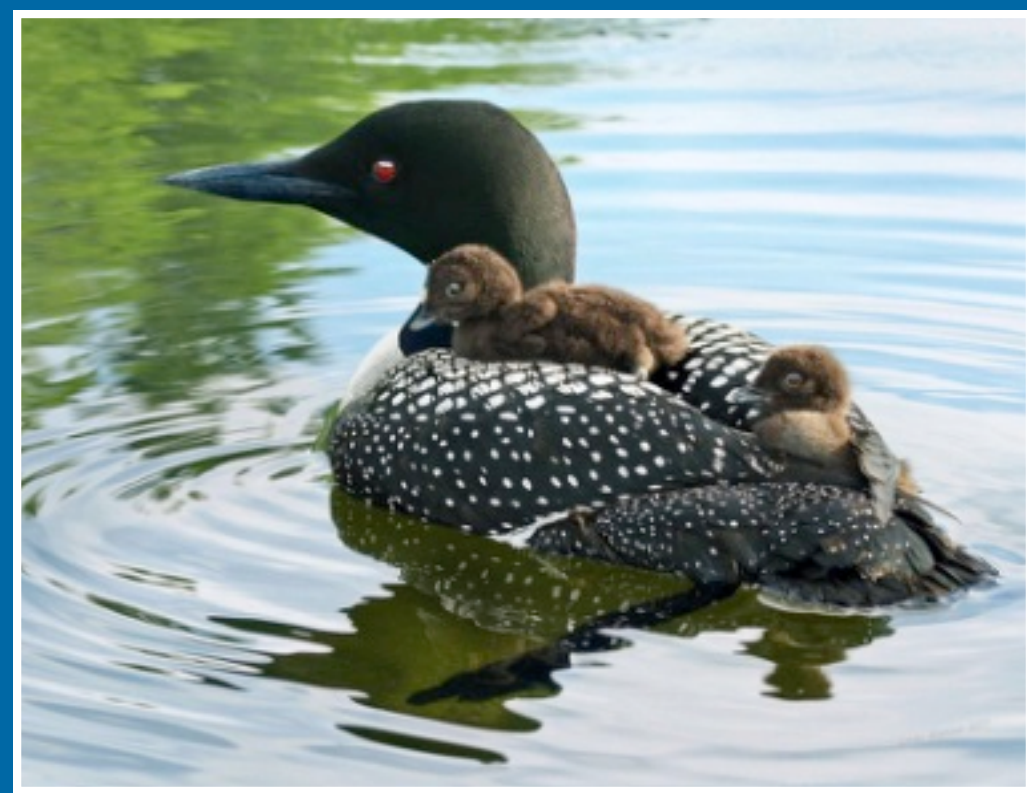
Billy Helprin - Somes-Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary



LOON RESCUE - Kevin n Linda Grenzer

Loon Rescue + Rehabilitation *Working Group*

Who We Are
Veterinarians,
biologists,
professors,
rehabilitators, &
rescue volunteers
from across the
United States &
Canada



What We Do
Gather, compile
and share
information on
loon biology,
rescue and
rehabilitation

HPAI (Avian Flu)

Always wear personal protection equipment and disinfect your gear

Wash your hands and arms after any contact with wild birds or equipment



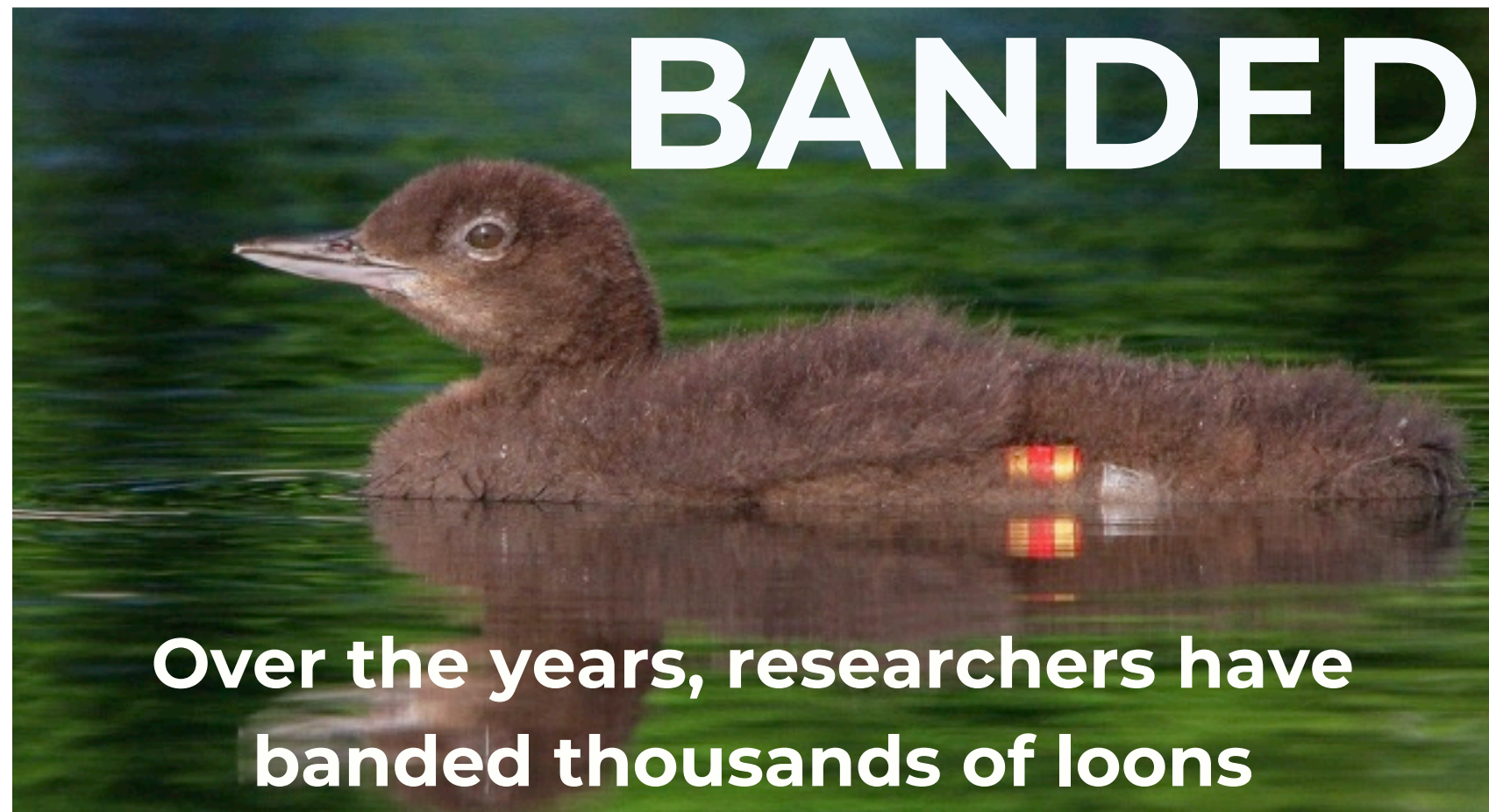
NORMAL LOON BEHAVIOR...

Their legs are NOT
broken



BANDED

LOONS



Over the years, researchers have banded thousands of loons



These bands are commonly mistaken for lures & bobbers.



Each loon receives a unique color combination so that loon can be identified.



Linda Grenzer

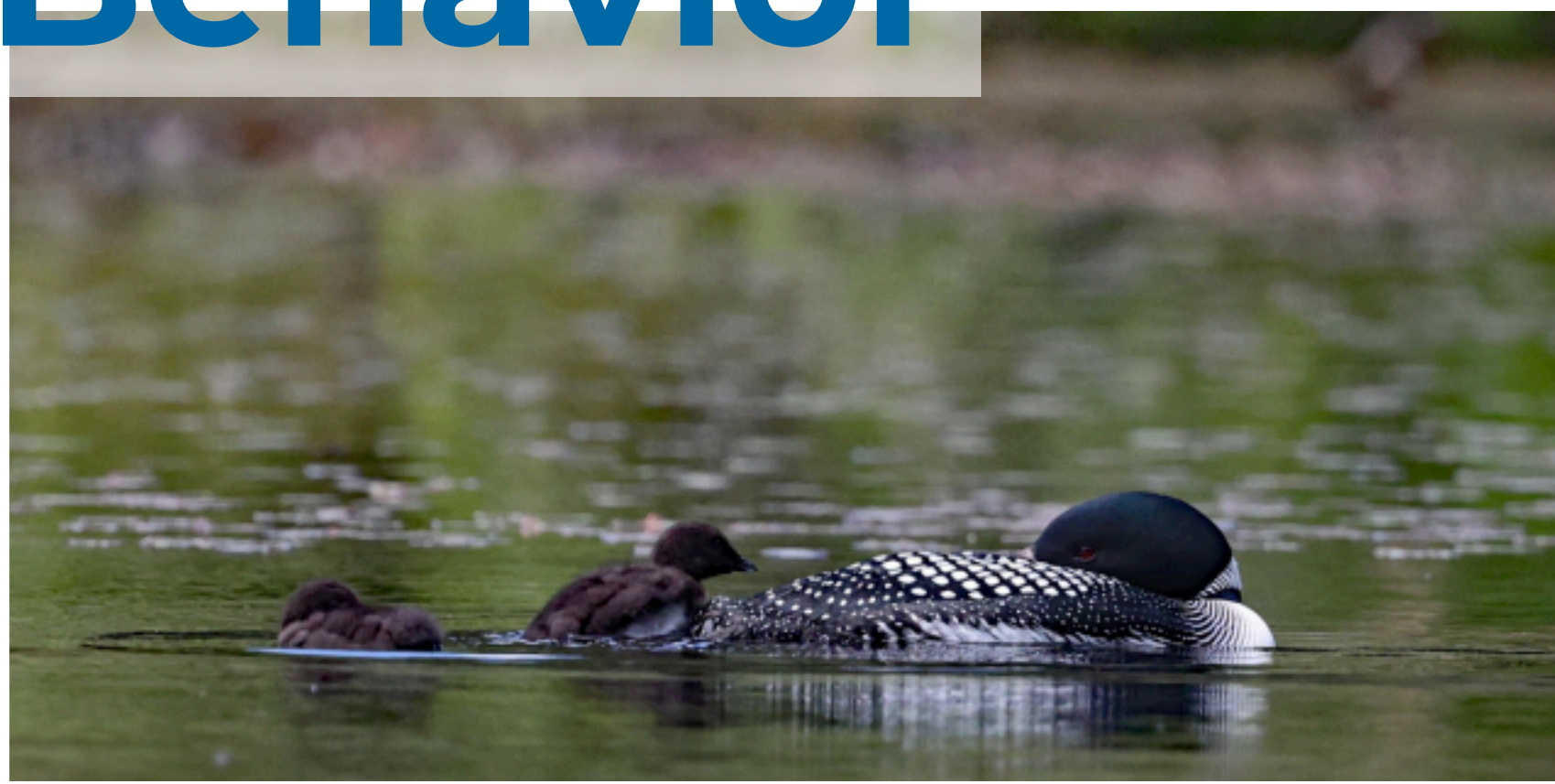


Normal Behavior

Sheila Farrell Johnston



Linda Grenzer



Loon in Trouble

Questions to ask:

- What makes you think the loon is in trouble?
- How close were/are you while observing?
- Does it dive? How long does it stay submerged?
- How close can you get to it?
- Are you prepared to capture if needed?



Linda Grenzer

Does It Need to be Rescued?

Fishing Lure or Line Attached?



YES!

Rescue - lure or line removed. **DO NOT CUT LINE** if it is going down throat.

Color banded adult with chick?



NO!

Inform public to keep distance. Color bands can confuse the public.

Beached Loon Not Normal

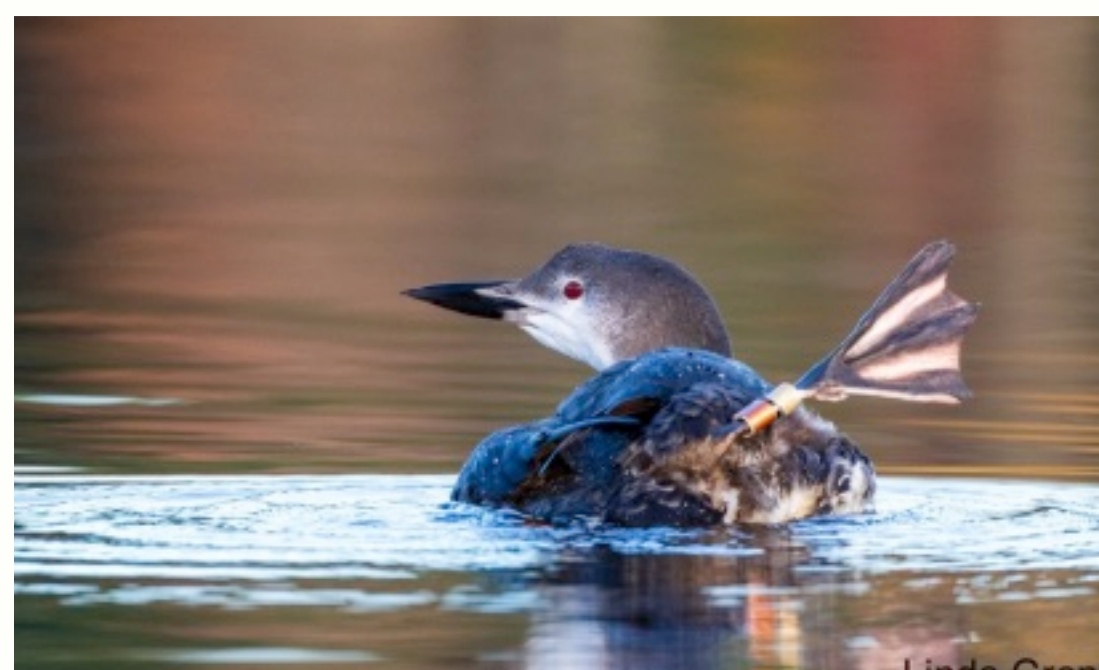


YES!

Loons beach due to injury, lead poisoning, territorial fights, etc.

Does It Need to be Rescued?

Normal Behaviors that may concern the Public



Foot Waggle

A normal behavior thought to help in cooling



Bathing vs Entangled

Vigorous preening bouts can appear frantic



Banded

Color bands can be mistaken as colorful fishing lures or bobbers

Bathing vs Entangled Loon

- Behaviors similar
- Vigorous actions may last long time
- Need to get a closer look if entangled
- Observation/photos or video important



Linda & Kevin Grenzer



Nesting

VS

Beached

At water's edge, nest often elevated (not always)
Typically nests mid-May to mid-July

Typically beaches on level area or gradual slope
Sandy or grassy area or under a pier or pontoon



Loon in “Distressed” Position

**Fishing
or Sick?**



**Proximity to shore =
red flag
Not diving, lethargic**

**Attempting to avoid
detection on nest**



Sheila Farrell Johnston

Disturbance nearby

**Open bill may indicate
respiratory issue or...**



Loon Rescue

**May indicate fishing line or
hook attached or
swallowed/lead poisoning**

Careful observation & photos important

Use binoculars & zoom lens cameras



Careful observation to describe behavior or activity

Observe without disturbance

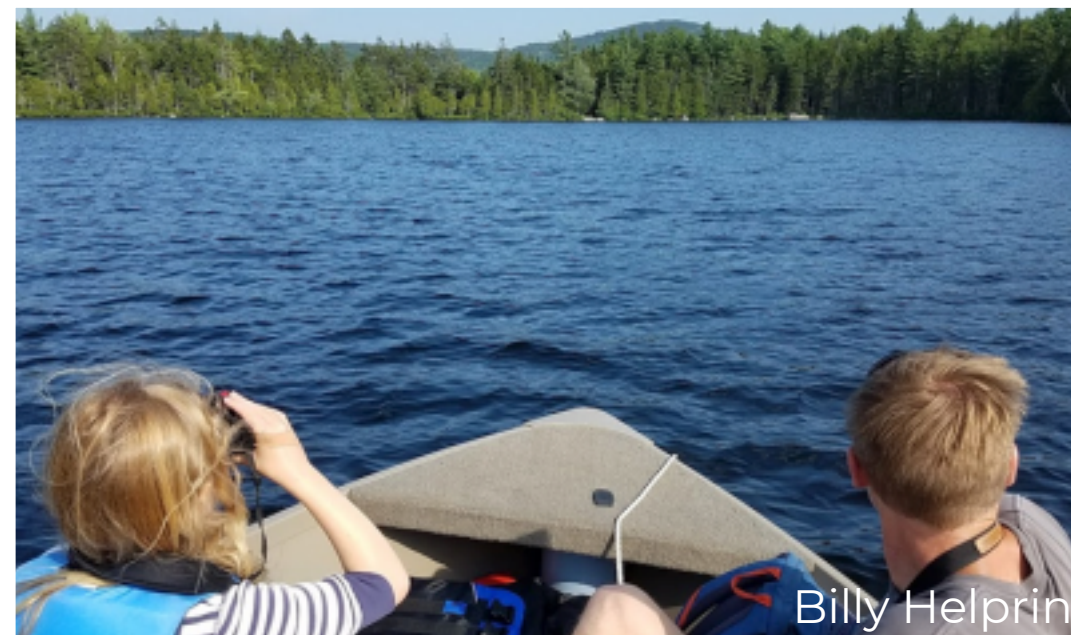


Conditions will vary and dictate action

Consult while observing at site



Call local wildlife rehab/loon expert ASAP



LOON RESCUE BLOOPER...

The frantic call came in that a loon was along the edge of his driveway. Without asking for pics, here is what we drove to rescue.



Loon Rescue Gear



84" Landing Net



Gloves

Towels

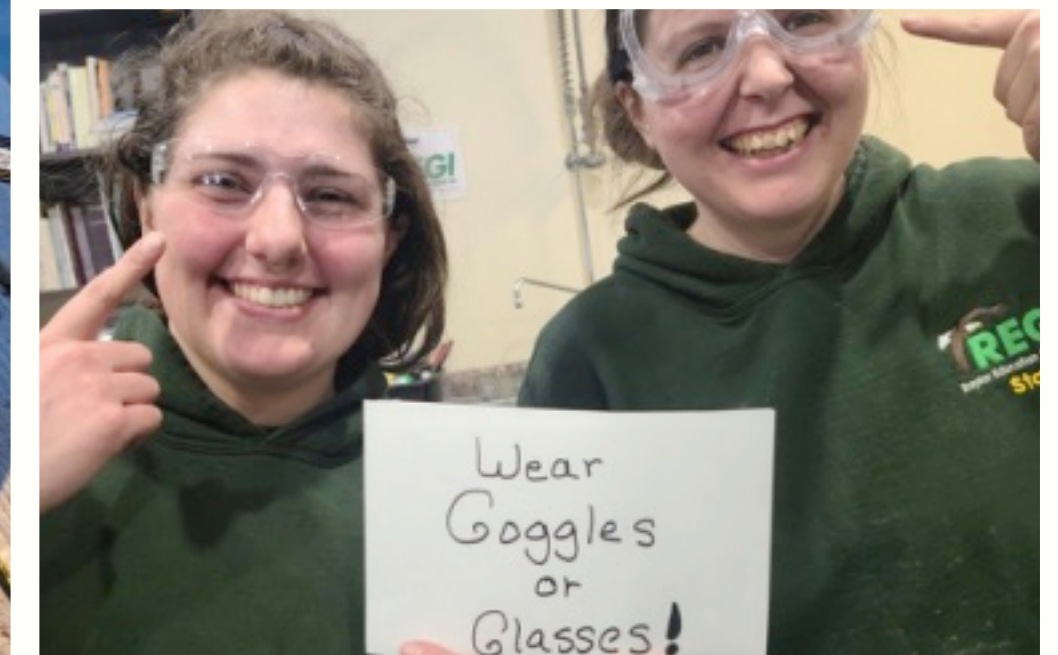
Rubbermaid tub w/holes

Spotlight & headlamps

Binoculars for reconnaissance



Glasses/Goggles!



RANGER NET 9877T12-72



The handle length can be used at 6', 9', or 12'



This net has to be special ordered through your local sporting goods/bait store.



Hook & Entanglement Removal Kit

Goggles or glasses

Fine Scissors

EMT shears

Forceps

Tweezers

Hemostats

Knife

Gloves

Side cutting pliers

Beached Loon: Upland

Not sitting on a nest/not immediately
adjacent to water

=

Not normal, likely needs intervention



Billy Helprin



Beached Loon Rescue



Daytime Capture
Loon is approachable
Easily netted or captured
with blanket



**May go back in water briefly
but returns to land**



Road landings/Wet pavement



Common Rescues

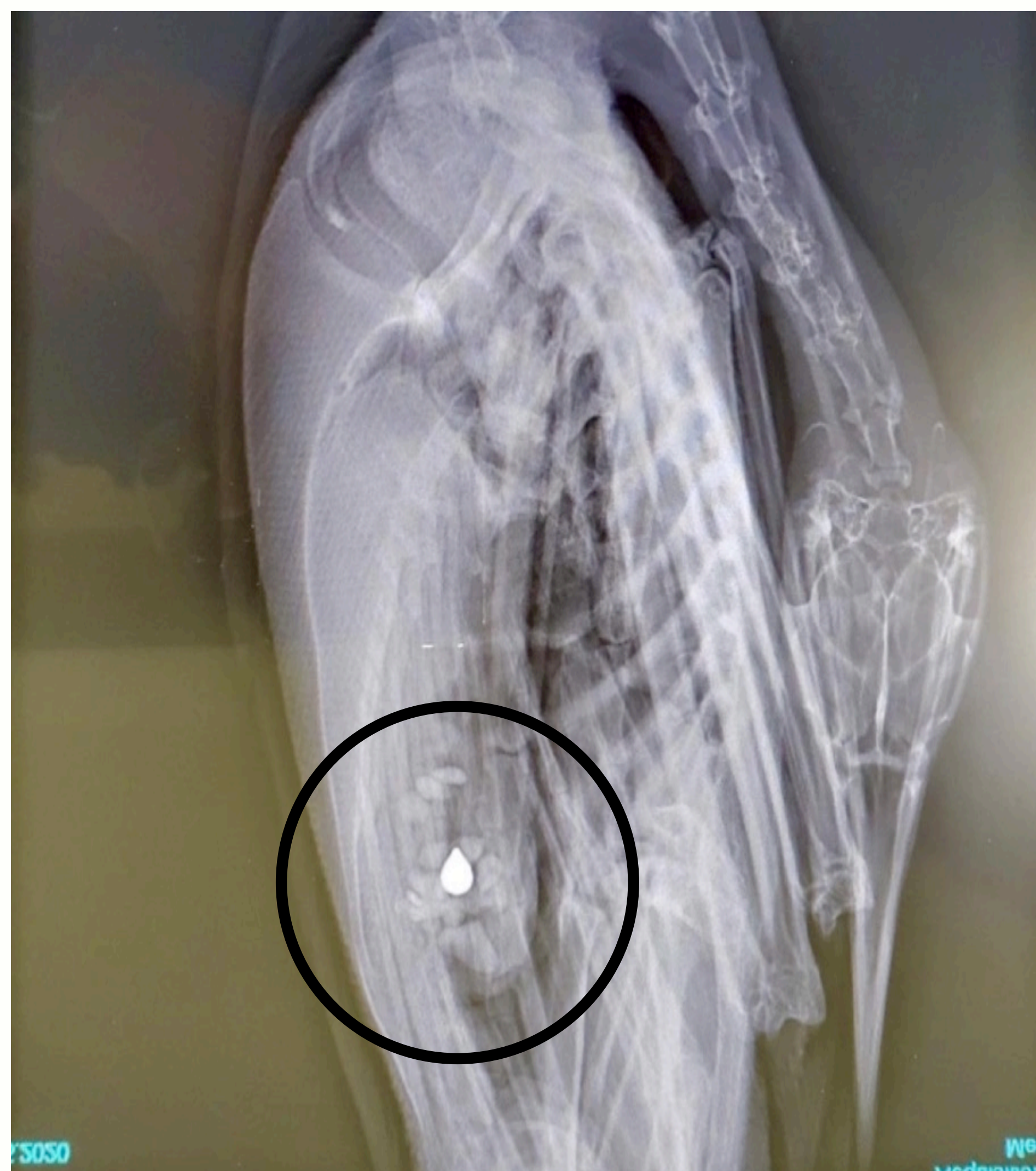
Lead Poisoning

Ingestion of lead sinkers or jigs

Shot with lead ammunition

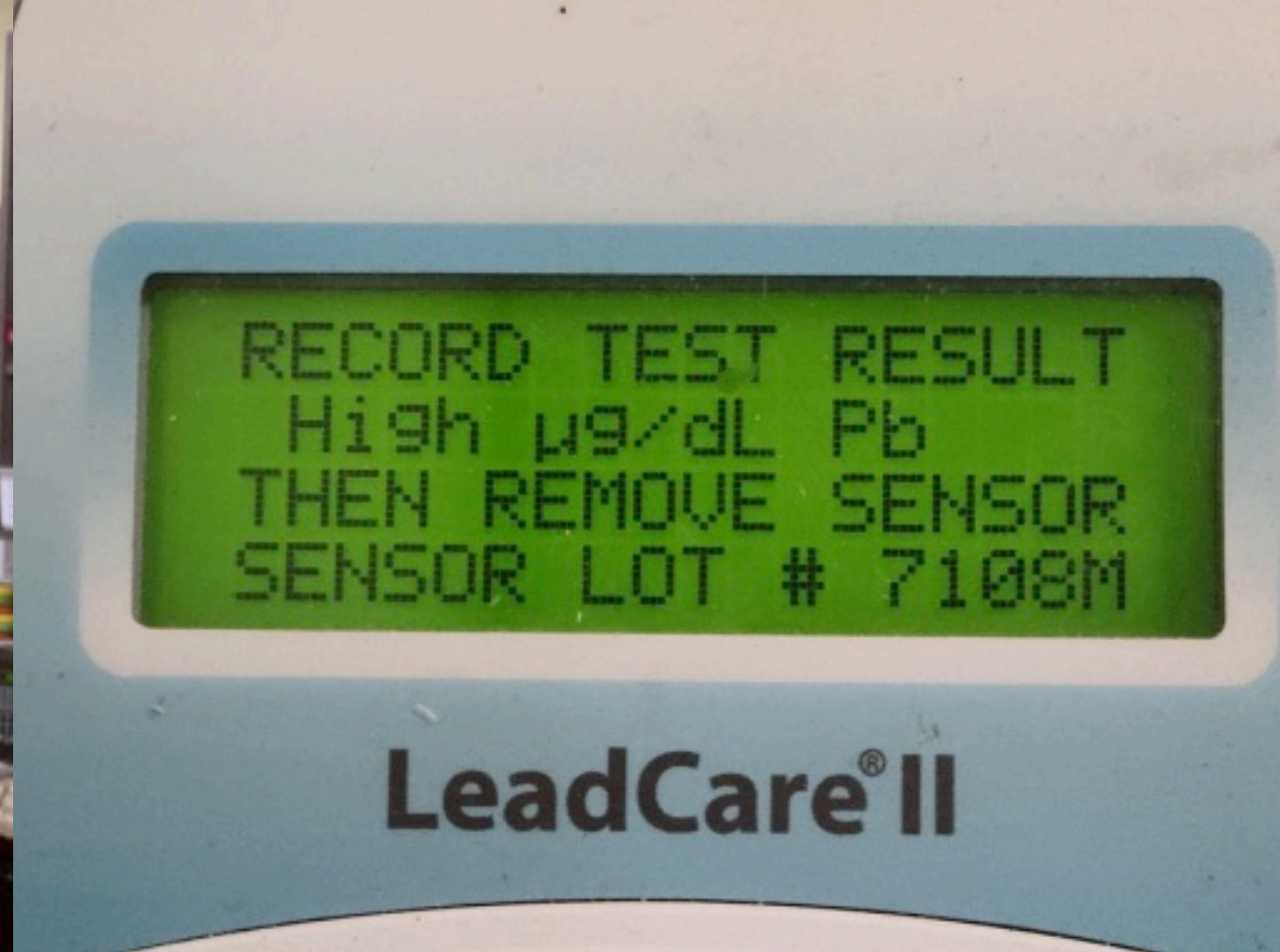
After ingesting a lead sinker or jig, a healthy loon will die a slow and painful death in 2 weeks.





Lake Michigan
Ellis Island, WI

REGI



Immediately upon admission, Raptor Education Group, Inc. starts chelation treatment





Lake Mendota // Madison, WI



Upper Eau Claire Lake//Barnes, WI



Silver Lake//Irma, WI

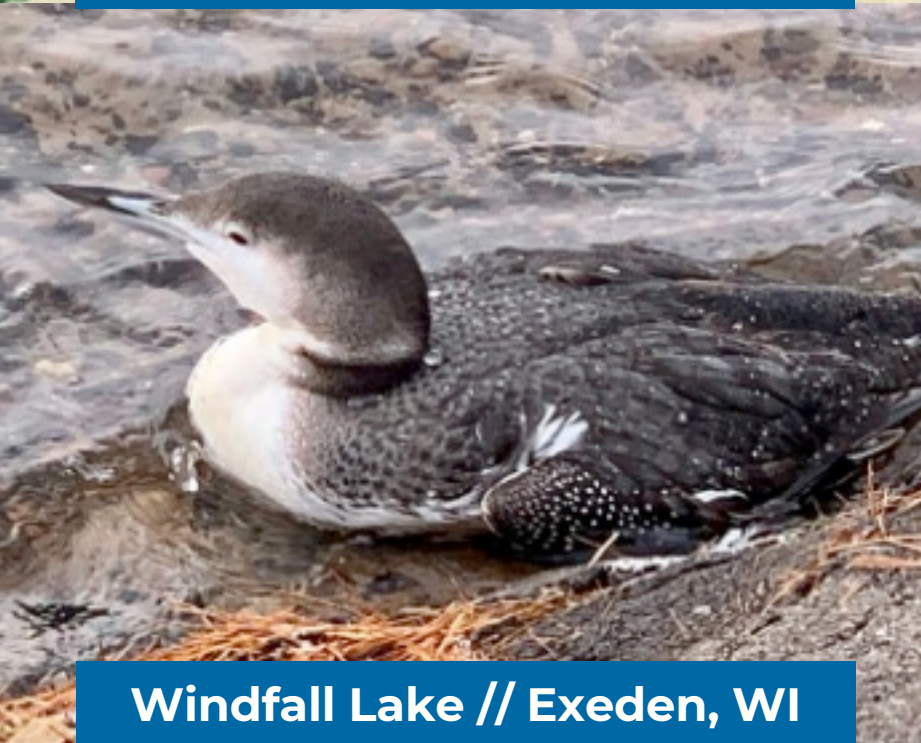


Minocqua Lake//Minocqua, WI



Turtle Flambeau Flowage//Mercer, WI

SADLY...
Every loon here that was rescued, died due to lead toxicity poison despite REGI'S valiant effort to save them.



Windfall Lake // Exeden, WI



Perch Lake // Hudson, WI



Scout Lake// Fence, WI



Crystal Lake Tomahawk, WI

Common Rescues

Entanglements & Hooks



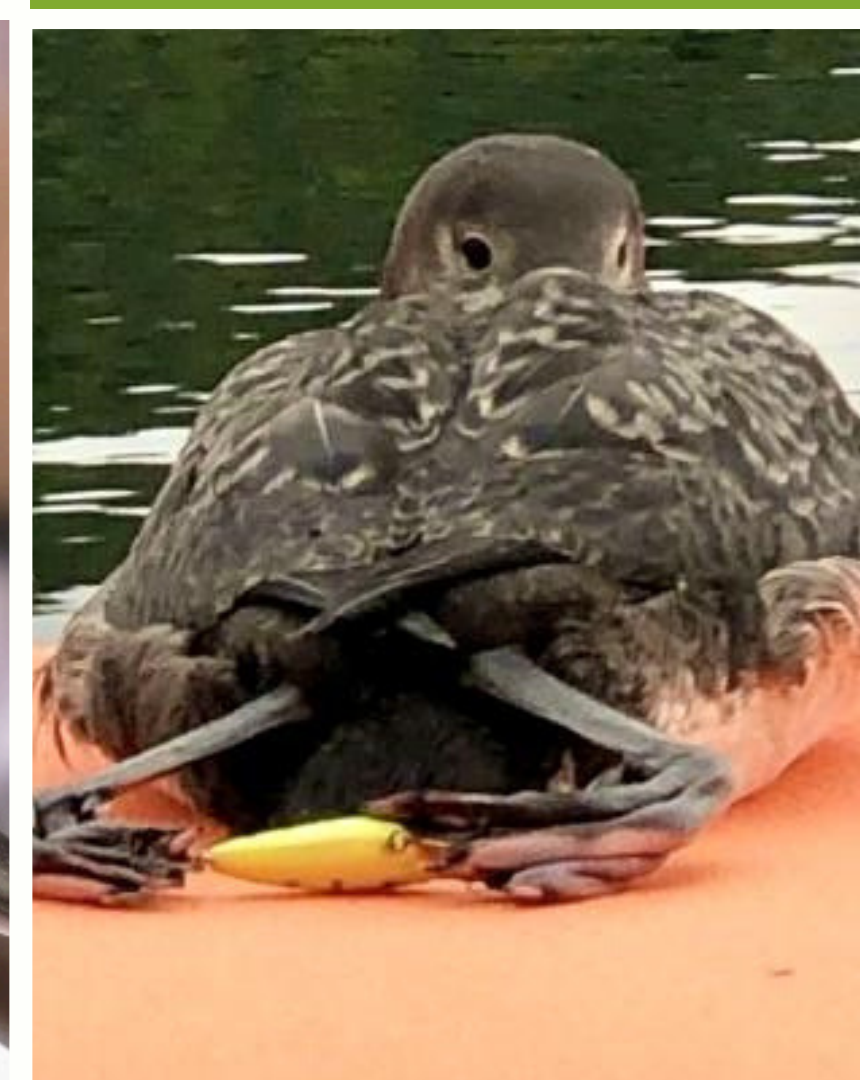
Do NOT cut line if it goes down the mouth!



DO remove line constricting face, leg or body part



REGI



Annabessacook



REGI

Boat Strike Rescues

Education & Intervention needed



Adults & chicks often chased by boats & jet skis



Chicks cannot avoid/parents protect

Fireworks shot off are **DANGEROUS** to loons.

- Loud explosions scatter loon families; chicks get lost.
- Falling embers cause burns on loons.
- Explosive charges in lakes create percussive effects on loons.
- Fireworks or percussive effects hit flying loons, causing disorientation and ground landings.

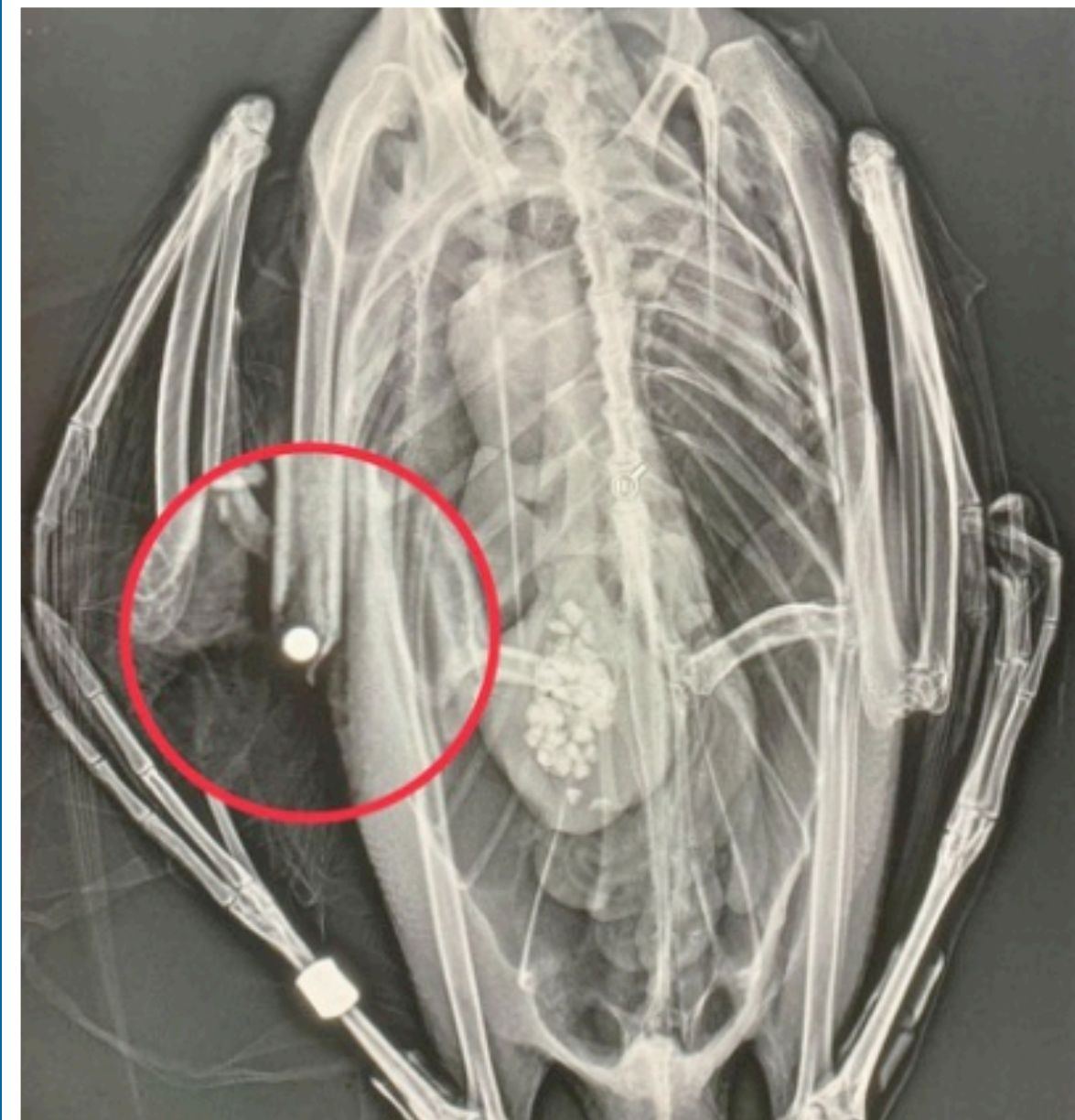


This young chick had hot falling embers land on its back. While trying to remove these hot embers off its back, the chick's eyes were also significantly burned.



Boom Lake // Rhinelander, WI

LOONS SHOT



Metonga Lake //
Crandon, WI



Artificial Nesting Platforms

Rafts should be carefully located within a pair's territory & reserved for pairs struggling to hatch chicks.

Choosing a raft over a natural site means relying on human upkeep unnecessarily & facing potential raft-related problems.

DO NOT USE ANP NETTING

This ANP is very dangerous. Loon scientists, rehabbers, and wildlife vets have all warned not to use this type of ANP. Adult loons and chicks have gotten caught in the netting and were injured. One was entangled and almost drowned. It was rescued but the eggs were lost. Chicks can be trapped between netting and base.



Loon Handling

- Goggles for handler
- Wings folded close to body
- Grab loon around each folded wing before lifting
- To ease stress, cover head with towel
- Do not hold bill closed



Safe Loon Transport

HOLD LOON SAFELY

Do not transport in trunk or pickup bed
Do not leave loon near AC or heaters

Padding under loon to prevent keel sores



Add 3 inches of dried crumpled paper under towel

Ventilation prevents overheating



Dry Housing

1. Plastic container
2. Adequate ventilation
3. Crumpled clean newspaper
4. Towel over paper
5. Add loon
6. Sheet over container
7. Secure sheet with clips

In case you need to hold loon overnight, keep box in quiet dark place and DO NOT FEED



**Wire of any kind =
Dangerous transport!
Includes: Dog Kennels,
Wire Traps, Cages**

LOON WILL DESTROY A
CARDBOARD BOX

NEVER PLACE A LOON ON A
FLAT SURFACE WITHOUT
PADDING



Extensive beak, face, foot and body injuries



Non-repairable beak, face and eye damage

NEVER USE A WIRE CAGE, TRAP or DOOR


**REPEAT
AFTER ME!**

- **Loons do not survive even a brief transport in wire cages, kennels or traps!**
 - **Never use wire of any kind with loons! Including kennels, or live traps even briefly**
 - **Alternatives: Tubs, pillowcases, blankets, towels, sturdy cardboard**
-

Suboptimal Transport Containers



**NEVER use hay or straw bedding!!
(fungal disease)**



**Clean sturdy cardboard boxes
work. However, be aware, loons
can get out during transport!**

Wildlife Rehab Centers

Only bring injured or sick loons to certified wildlife rehab centers



Minnesota:

The Wildlife Rehabilitation
Center

2530 Dale Street North
Roseville, MN 55113
Phone: 651-486-9453

Wisconsin:

Raptor Education Group
N2160 W Rollwood Rd.
Antigo, WI 54409
Phone: 715-623-4015.

Thank You!

