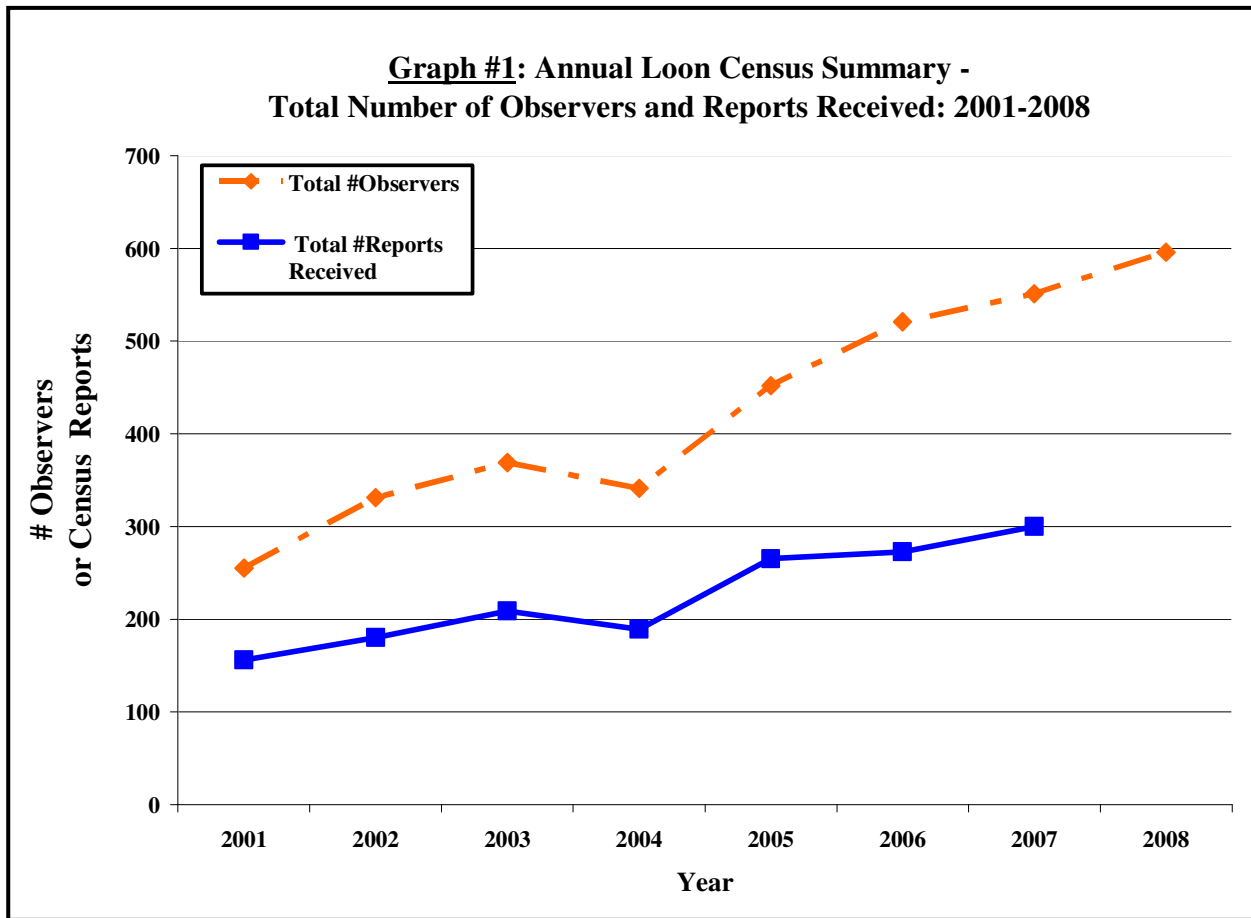


SUMMARY OF THE WCS LOON PROGRAM'S
ANNUAL LOON CENSUS RESULTS: 2001-2008

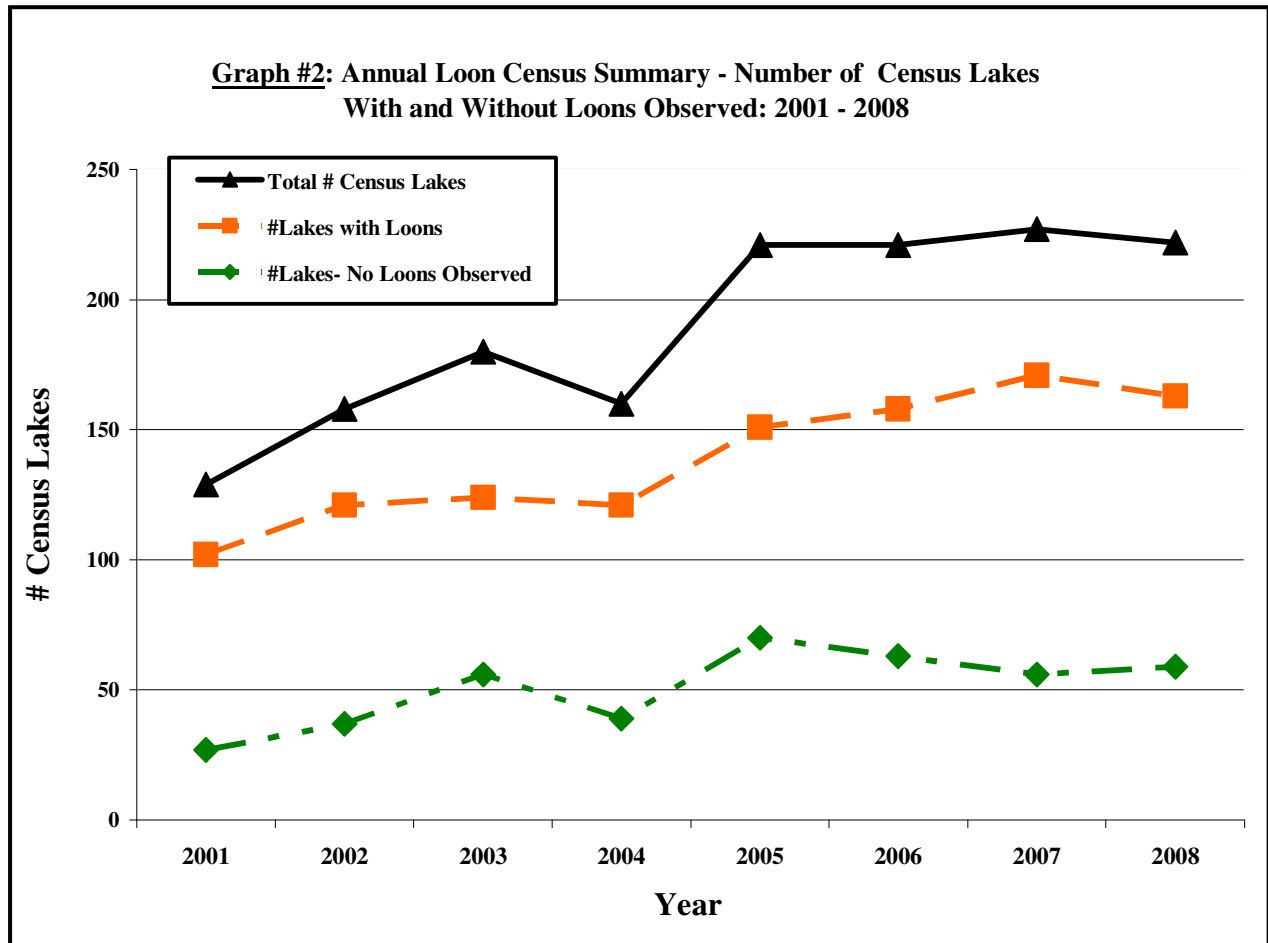
ALL OBSERVERS DID AN OUTSTANDING JOB ONCE AGAIN THIS YEAR!

Since the first Annual Loon Census in 2001, enthusiasm for this event grown immensely. We are most grateful to all the observers who have participated over the years. Your observations continue to enhance our understanding of the Common Loon population summering in the Adirondack Park.

The total number of observers and Census reports has almost doubled over the eight years since the inception of the Annual Loon Census, as demonstrated by Graph #1. Almost 600 census observers participated this year – a record number!

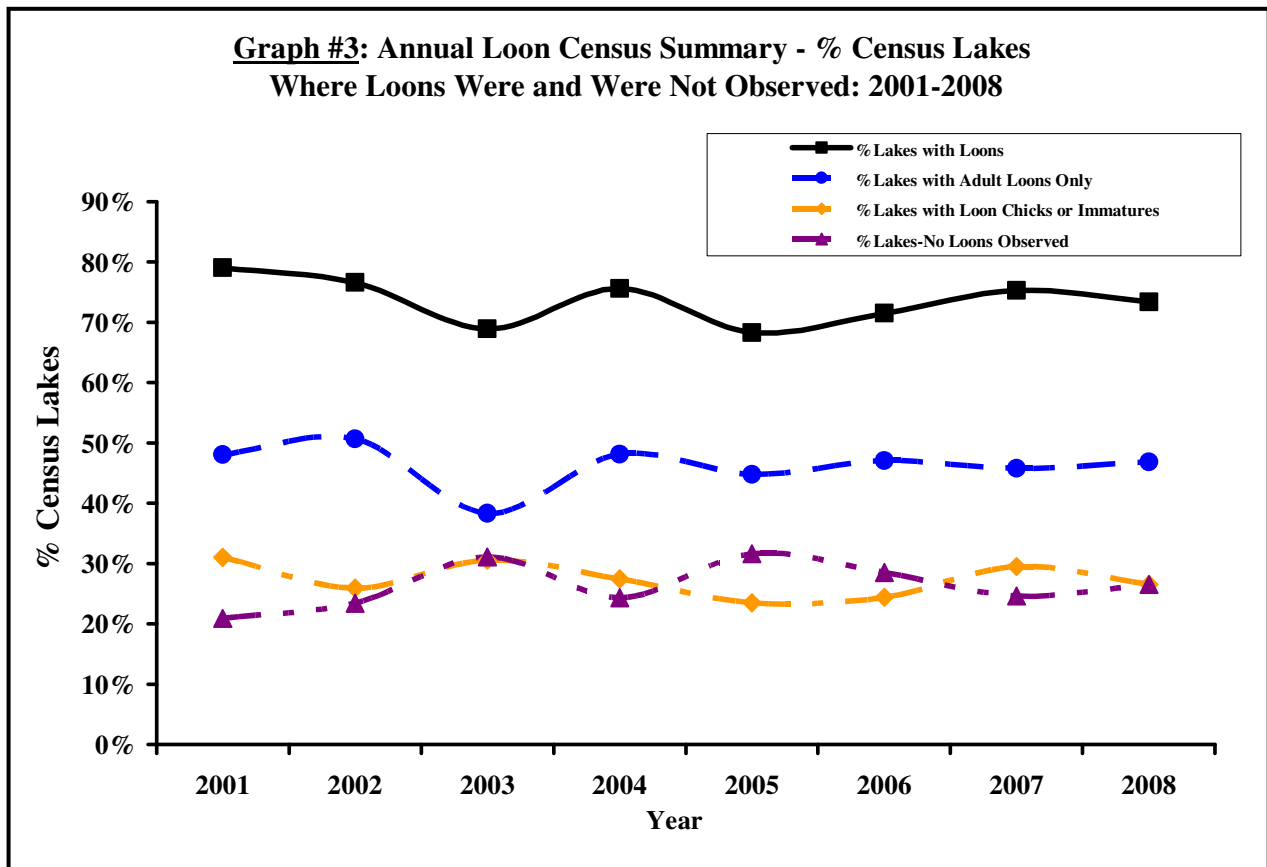


The number of lakes included in the Annual Loon Census has ranged from 129 to 227, as illustrated in Graph #2. Over the past eight years, loons have been observed on a range of 102 to 171 Census lakes, while the number of Census lakes where no loons have been observed has varied from 27 to 70.

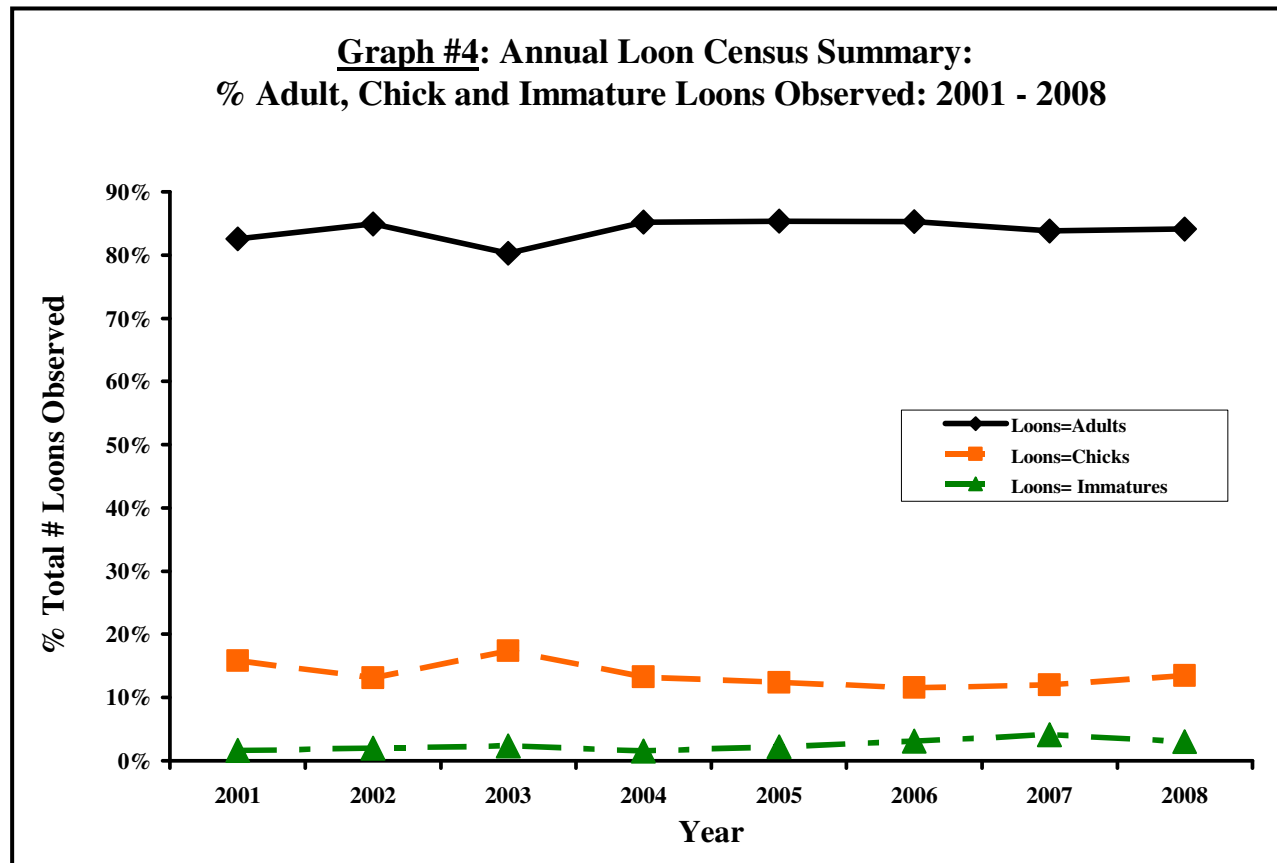


Based on the results from 2001-2008, the population of loons in New York has remained relatively stable, as shown in Graph #3. This graph shows the percentage of lakes where loons were observed over the last eight years. On average, loon sightings have consistently been reported from 74% of the Census lakes. Loons with chicks have been observed on an average of 27% of the Census lakes. The variation in loon chick sightings from year to year can be attributed to a variety of factors, such as weather and predation.

Even though it may be disappointing not to see loons or loon chicks on your lake, such observations are extremely valuable for determining changes in loon habitat use and population trends over time.



Over the past eight years, the proportion of adult and young loons on the Census lakes has remained relatively constant, as demonstrated by Graph #4. The summering population of loons on New York Census lakes consists of 84% adult loons, 14% loon chicks, and 2% immature loons. The Census is conducted in mid-summer when most of the chicks that hatched are still young. Therefore, it is expected that few immature loons would be observed. If the Census was performed in late summer or early fall, the proportion of immatures would likely be much higher.



~~ CENSUS OBSERVERS ~~

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 2009 ANNUAL LOON CENSUS!
SATURDAY, JULY 18, FROM 8-9A.M.

- ❖ See the Census Sign Up page to find out how to participate in the 2009 Census.
- ❖ Invite your friends to observe a new census lake!