



**ALL ABOUT LOONS!** Once again, a pair of Loons appeared on Pearl Lake the day after ice out. How is it possible when traveling roughly 150 miles that these amazing birds arrive at the perfect time? With autumn rolling in how do they know when it's time to leave?



On September 21st, local residents joined the Lisbon, Landaff, Lyman Conservation Commissions, and ACT at the Lisbon Area Historical Society for a presentation by the Loon Preservation Committee's Caroline Hughes to find out.

According to Caroline Hughes, a biologist with the Loon Preservation Committee since 2016, the loons arrive on Pearl Lake at the earliest possible time because loons are very territorial. They will secure their breeding ground territory year after year by arriving before any other loons. (Most NH lakes are too small to support more than one nesting pair.) This is important as loons have a delayed age of maturity and often don't breed until they are 6-7 years old. They live a long life, thirty or so years, but delay in breeding and only having 1 or 2 eggs that survive to fledging necessitates they secure the breeding ground rather than finding and fighting for a new one. The nesting pair of loons on Pearl Lake had two chicks this



summer, and human visitors to the lake have been pleased to track their progress.

Some years the loon chicks don't make it to maturity. There was a false alarm this summer when one of the chicks went missing. The good news arrived mid-July, in the form of a photo; the whole family is doing just fine!

On September 6th, the young loons were seen practicing their flying skills and building strength. It won't be long before they will head out for distant shores for the winter.

They must leave while there is enough open water for them to lift off for the flight to the coast. Most of the loons in NH make the journey in one shot flying roughly eighty miles per hour to the shores of MA, NH, and ME.



Loon Parent & chicks on Pearl Lake

If you are intrigued, come out to Pearl Lake and observe (from a distance) these amazing birds for yourself, but come soon as they are preparing for departure. If you want to learn more about these fascinating birds, visit the Loon Preservation Committee website: <https://loon.org/>.

## Wildlife Encounter at Lisbon School!

Children from Lisbon Regional Elementary, Landaff Primary School and families of pre-school children eagerly anticipated their date with wild animals when Amanda Jobin from the Wildlife Encounters Ecology and Wellness Center presented the Junior Wildlife Encounter program on May 18th. Hosted by the Lisbon Regional School the children with rapt attention were introduced to seven ambassador animals from around the world. All of the animals, unable to live independently in the wild for various reasons, travel around the region to bring connection and appreciation of wildlife and nature through direct contact.



A Rat Snake led the parade of animals



followed by a 3-banded Armadillo, several Tiger Salamanders, a Fennec Fox, a Giant Marine Toad (cane toad), a Leopard Tortoise and a Flemish Giant Rabbit. It was a huge

thrill for the kids to get to pet many of the animals. The enthusiasm continued to grow throughout as Amanda introduced each animal.



The soft furred, calm Flemish rabbit ended the program with all the children lining up for a chance to pet this ambassador.

The program was sponsored by the Lisbon Public Library and the Lisbon Conservation Commission. Thank you to Karla Houston, Librarian, for suggesting and coordinating Wildlife Encounters.

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## BALD EAGLES STAGE BIG COMEBACK ALONG CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY

An article written by Kate Buckman, the Connecticut River Conservancy, for the group's webpage, celebrates the strong recovery of bald eagles in the Connecticut River Valley.

The comeback is part of an eagle resurgence throughout New England which began in western Massachusetts in the 1980s. There are currently over 90 breeding territories in New Hampshire alone.

Bald eagles in our state have doubled every six years since the eighties, and on both sides of the Connecticut, all the way to the Canadian border, there are more the 30 nesting sites. That's an amazing recovery!





Eagle nests are built mainly in large white pines and cottonwood trees. These nests are sturdy and are commonly 8 feet across and over 5 feet deep. There is one nest in Plainfield N.H. that has been used every year since the turn of the century!

Kate Buckman's article attributes the eagle comeback to two main factors— the banning of DDT in 1972 and the great resourcefulness of the eagles themselves!

If you want to spot an eagle, keep your eyes peeled just east of town along the Ammonoosuc River or watch for one fishing in Pearl Lake.

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*Do you enjoy nature? Are you concerned about the environment?*

**ARE YOU A FREQUENT VISITOR OF PEARL LAKE OR THE AMMONOOSUC RIVER?**

*The Conservation Commission needs your help to maintain and protect our natural resources, and work on the evolution of the Town Forest. We would like to hear your ideas AND we are also interested in fostering a community of volunteers to help us make the best use of this land for all of its creatures, no matter the number of legs, fins, or wings.*

*We meet once a month at the Railway Station. (Check the town calendar: [www.lisbonnh.org](http://www.lisbonnh.org).) Come to a meeting to learn more about volunteer opportunities or to become a Conservation Commissioner. If you imagine this land much the same for your children's grandchildren, then get involved. It takes our thoughtful planning now to ensure the lasting beauty of this place we call home.*

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Twinkle,  
twinkle little  
star



As the leaves fall  
and the sun  
drops below the  
horizon, an

awesome opportunity awaits. Have you ever enjoyed watching bats dart and swoop eradicating the nighttime bugs? Have you watched the moon rise or watched nature's very own light show in the form of a late season thunder storm with lightning ablaze? Let's not forget the glories of star gazing, and, yes, even satellite counting. Have you noticed that the Milky Way becomes more pronounced as the cold weather begins to descend?



There is a certain magic to the night sky, and there are many places in the world that these simple delights aren't possible due to light pollution. There are so many implications and disruptions to the natural

world caused by our human need to light up. For better or worse, we like our lights. But we can light smartly so that we don't lose the joys we experience with a dark sky, and respect the nighttime creatures that prefer the dark.

Pay attention to your lighting habits. Do you really need to keep the porch light on all night? Is the spot light necessary, or is there an alternative? There are lots of

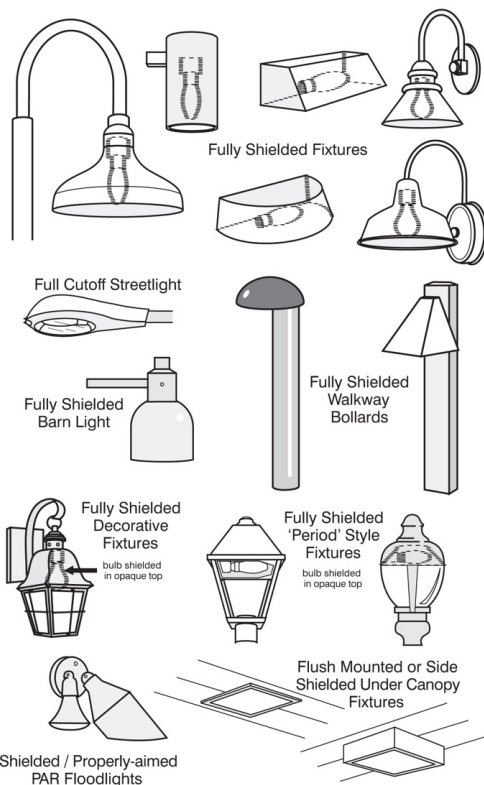
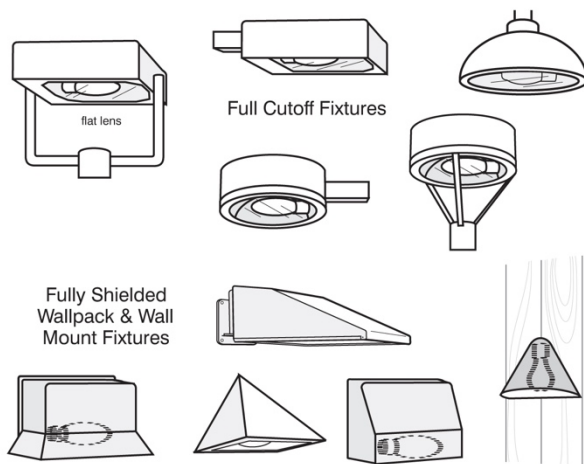
ways to see what we need to see and keep the sky dark for all.

Here are some lighting tips that will help. In addition to creating an environment to enjoy the delights of the night sky, you may save a few dollars on your electric bill.



### Acceptable

Fixtures that shield the light source to minimize glare and light trespass and to facilitate better vision at night



Illustrations by Bob Crelin© 2005. Rendered for the Town of Southampton, NY. Used with permission.

To learn more visit: <https://darksky.org/what-we-do/advancing-responsible-outdoor-lighting>

### What is the Conservation Commission and what does it do?

The Conservation Commission was established under NH RSA 36-A, and was adopted by town vote in 1981. The Conservation Commission is a group of volunteers appointed by the Select Board tasked with conducting the town natural resources inventories, coordinating conservation activities including environmental education, land protection, wetland evaluation, and protection of wildlife and watershed resources. The members serve three-year terms.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT JOINING THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, OR HAVE CONSERVATION QUESTIONS PLEASE VISIT THE TOWN WEBSITE [HTTPS://WWW.LISBONNH.ORG/CONSERVATION-COMMISSION](https://www.lisbonnh.org/conservation-commission)

*The Lisbon Conservation Commission stewards and protects the town's natural resources through planning, promoting and educating to assist the town boards and the public in conservation matters. We encourage informed decision making to keep Lisbon a livable place today and for decades to come.*

### Lisbon Conservation Commission Members:

Katrine Barclay, Chair (2026)  
Robert Cook (2025)  
Gary Ghioto (2026)  
Becky Lockwood (2025)  
Rosalind Page, Recording Secretary (2025)  
Mark Roberts (2025)