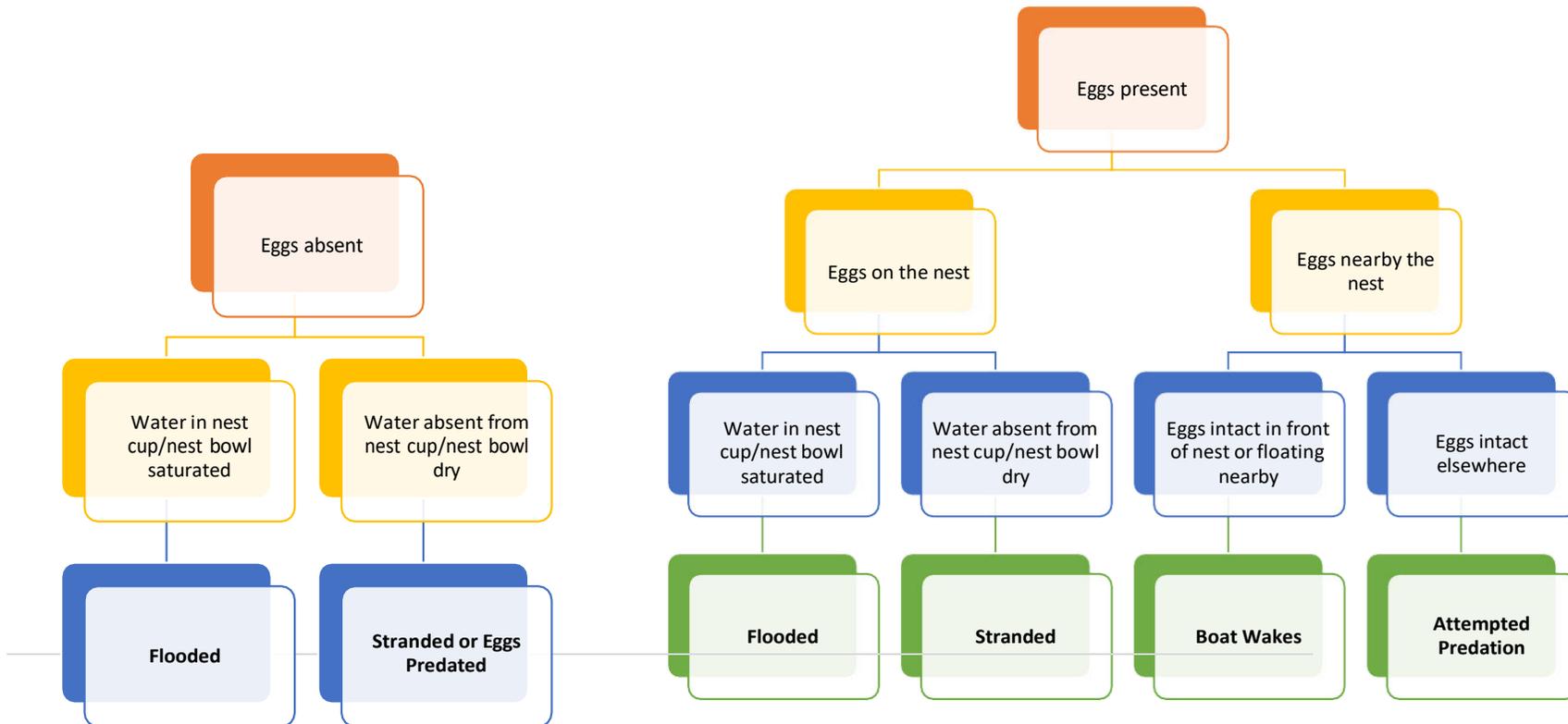


Clues to Causes of Loon Nest Failure

Determining if a loon pair has abandoned their nest can sometimes be difficult. Sometimes loons leave the nest, even for extended periods of time, before returning. So an empty nest isn't necessarily an abandoned nest. But when loons do abandon their nests, determining the cause of nest failure can be very tricky. Physical factors can cause loons to leave the nest or their eggs not to hatch, like boat wakes, flooding as water level rises, or nest stranding if falling water levels make the nest inaccessible. Predators and intrusions from people, pets, and other loons can also prevent successful chick hatching. These can all leave different signs behind that can serve as clues. Please help us determine causes of nesting failure by sending photos of the abandoned nest (taken from a distance) to: loonrestoration@maineaudubon.org. (Don't approach the nest on land). Also take a look at the diagrams in the next several pages and let us know which scenarios seem to best match your situation. If eggs were absent, was the nest bowl wet? If eggs were present, were they in the water, did they have holes in them, were they crushed? This information can be very helpful for deciding on conservation and nest protection measures. Thank you for your help!



Could Predation Have Caused Nest Failure?

Use this flow chart if eggs or shells were present on the nest, and the one on the next page if eggs were absent, to see if you can make an informed guess as to the type of animal that may have predated this nest.

