

## IOWA'S TRUMPETER SWAN RESTORATION PROGRAM – A 2005 UPDATE

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The following is a summary in time-line form that presents a brief overview of the history and development of the Trumpeter Swan restoration program in the State of Iowa. The last historical nesting of Trumpeter Swans in Iowa was recorded in 1883 at Twin Lakes in Hancock County.

- 1994: The Mississippi Flyway sanctioned and approved Iowa's Trumpeter Swan restoration plan.
- Goals were: (1) 15 wild nesting pairs by 2003. Goal later revised to 25 pair by 2006.  
(2) Promote the many values of wetlands.
- 1995: Field work was initiated.
- 1998 and 1999: First Modern Day nesting pair on a private farm pond in Dubuque County.
- 2000: Second nesting pair at Thorpe Park Wetlands, Winnebago County.
- 2001: Nine wild nesting attempts with 26 cygnets hatched; ~ 19 to flight stage.
- 2002: 10 wild nesting attempts with 37 cygnets hatched; ~ 27 to flight stage.
- 2003: 13 wild nesting attempts with 53 cygnets hatched; ~ 36 to flight stage.
- 2004: 15 wild nesting attempts with 44 cygnets hatched; ~ 36 to flight stage.
- 2005: 26 wild nesting attempts with 87 cygnets hatched; ~ 67 to flight stage (Figure 1).

In addition, listed below is other significant information.

- Iowa Trumpeter Swans were initially collared with green, then red collars, both having two white numbers and one white letter and a corresponding plastic tarsus band and a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lock-on tarsus band.
- Several of the Iowa released Trumpeter Swans have nested in Southern Minnesota and Wisconsin and one successful nest occurred in Missouri in 2005.
- To date, 685 Trumpeter Swans have been released; 113 trumpeters were released in 2005. The program will have approximately 80 swans to release in 2006.
- We have 55 flightless Partnership pairs that produce the greatest share of our 1-year old cygnets for release. The program is also obtaining cygnets from U.S. zoos as the opportunities arise.
- Iowa-banded Trumpeter Swans have been reported in 15 states and two provinces of Canada (Figure 2).
- Traditional migration/wintering sites in Iowa are developing. These sites include 74 swans near Webster City, 24 birds at Atlantic, 13 near Wheatland, and 15 swans near Mason City, Iowa. There are other scattered groups of smaller numbers at other sites within the State.
- 197 known mortalities have occurred to date: 39 from power line collisions; 41 poached by violators; 22 from diseases; seven from lead poisoning; seven from predators, and 81 from unknown causes.
- Shooting Trumpeter Swans in Iowa results in a \$1,500 fine and court costs and possible hunting license revocation.
- The Iowa Trumpeter Swan database currently exceeds 3,500 observations.
- For additional Trumpeter Swan information, we recommend the following web sites: Iowa Department of Natural Resources at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com), the Iowa State University Trumpeter Swan Committee at [www.stuorg.iastate.edu/swan](http://www.stuorg.iastate.edu/swan), and The Trumpeter Swan Society at [www.trumpeterswansociety.org](http://www.trumpeterswansociety.org). During the nesting season, an Iowa nesting pair of swans can be observed on a web cam at [www.osage.net/~mccb](http://www.osage.net/~mccb).
- For more information or questions concerning Iowa's Trumpeter Swans, please contact Ron Andrews or Dave Hoffman, Iowa Trumpeter Swan Restoration Coordinators, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 1203 North Shore Drive, Clear Lake, IA 50428. Office Phone: (641)357-3517. E-mail address: [Ron.Andrews@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Ron.Andrews@dnr.state.ia.us) or [David.Hoffman@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:David.Hoffman@dnr.state.ia.us)

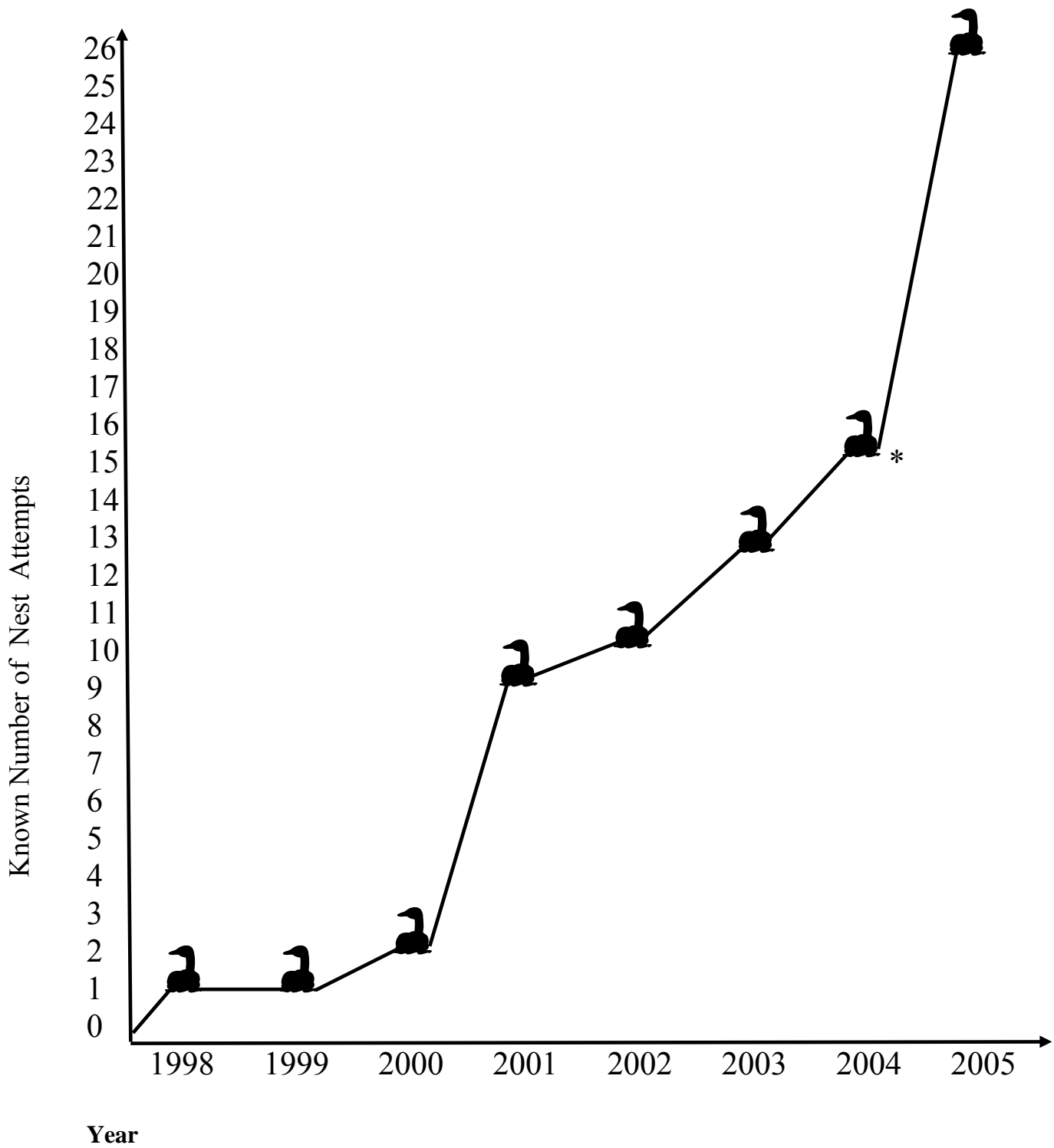


Figure 1. Number of known Trumpeter Swan nest attempts 1998 to present. \* Flooding conditions in 2004 caused Iowa DNR staff to guesstimate nesting attempts.

## Observations of Trumpeter Swans Released in Iowa 1995-2005

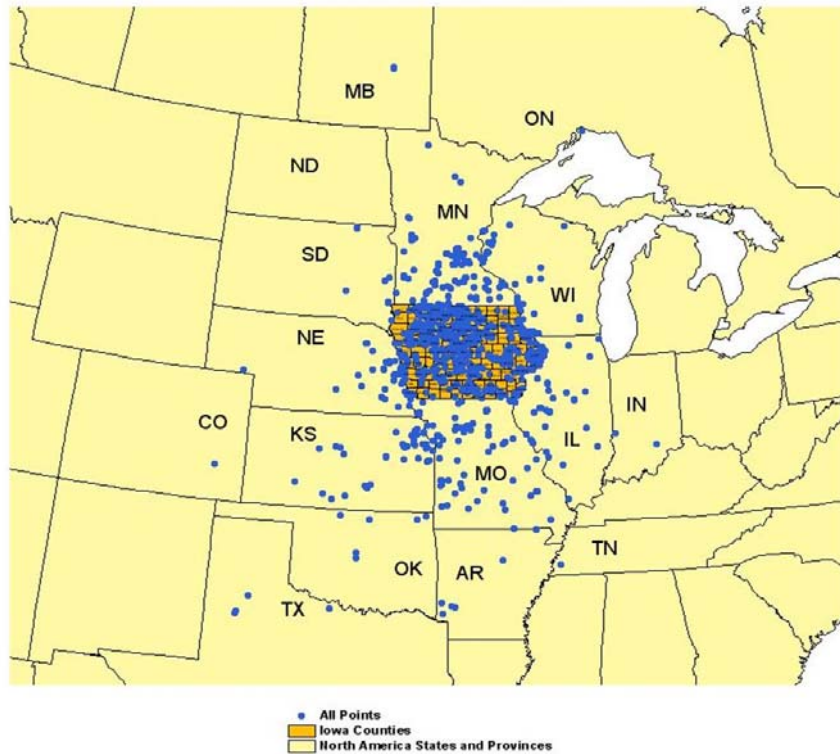


Figure 2. Observations of Iowa's released Trumpeter Swans.