

**STATUS OF TRUMPETER SWANS (*Cygnus buccinator*) AT SENEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
(1991-2005)**

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**ABSTRACT**

**Because of its enabling legislation, remoteness, and habitat quality, Seney National Wildlife Refuge in Upper Peninsula, Michigan, was identified as a site for Trumpeter Swan reintroduction in the late 1980s. Subsequently, 44 swans were released in the Refuge over a period of 3 years (1991 – 1993) in a multi-agency attempt to bring back a breeding population of Trumpeter Swans to the Upper Great Lakes region. The past 14 years has shown a steady increase in the total number of white birds (adult/juvenile swans) on the Refuge (231 in 2005), the number of swan nests on the refuge (26 in 2005), and the total number of cygnets hatched (110 in 2005). However, cygnet survival (20%) was the lowest this year since the swans started nesting on the Refuge in 1992. Although the swan reintroduction program is an ongoing success for the Great Lakes region, information gaps still exist. These gaps include, but are not limited to, determining adult survival rates, identifying wintering and pre-breeding areas, identifying predators and predation rates on cygnets, and determining how swans are affecting the overall ecology of the pools on the Refuge.**

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