

INTERIOR POPULATION OF TRUMPETER SWANS: STATUS AND TRENDS

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ABSTRACT

Trumpeter Swans (*Cygnus buccinator*) of the Interior Population (IP) were extirpated by 1900. The population now consists of 19 restored subpopulations located in eight states and three Canadian provinces. Initial restoration efforts began in the Central Flyway in the 1960s, followed by six projects in the Mississippi Flyway in the 1980s and 1990s. Approximately 2,424 swans have been released and wild pairs have produced over 9,600 cygnets (1962-2005). In 2005, 165 swans were released, and 422 successful pairs produced 1,419 cygnets. When added to survivors from previous years, the 2005 fall flight was estimated to be 4,750. All programs have exceeded “goals” stated in their Flyway approved plans. We are at 245% of successful pair goal and 237% of population goal as stated in Management Plan for the Interior Population of Trumpeter Swans. The population increased 91% from 2,426 in 2000 to 4,750 in 2005, preliminary results (Table 1, Figure 1). The population has been doubling every 5 years since 1985.

Table 1. Interior Population estimates from Quinquennial Surveys, 1968-2005

Year	Number	% Cygnets
1968	65	33%
1975	116	30%
1980	176	28%
1985	209	33%
1990	422	30%
1995	927	25%
2000	2,426	28%
2005*	4,750	30%

* 2005 data preliminary

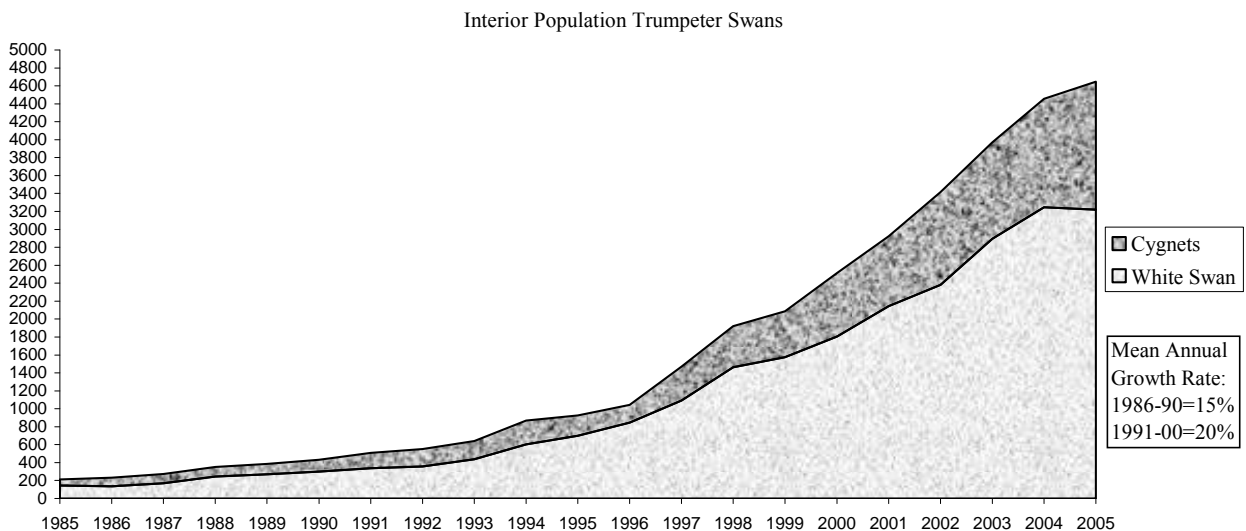


Figure 1. Growth rate of the Interior Population of Trumpeter Swans based on late summer and fall census.