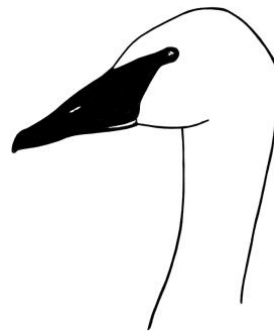




TRUMPETINGS

Voice of the Trumpeter Swan Society
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Since 1968: Assuring the vitality and welfare of wild Trumpeter Swans

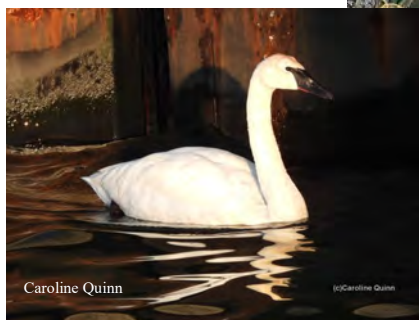
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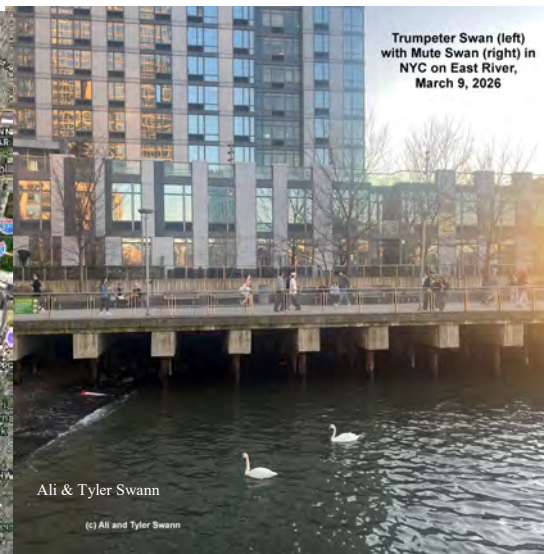
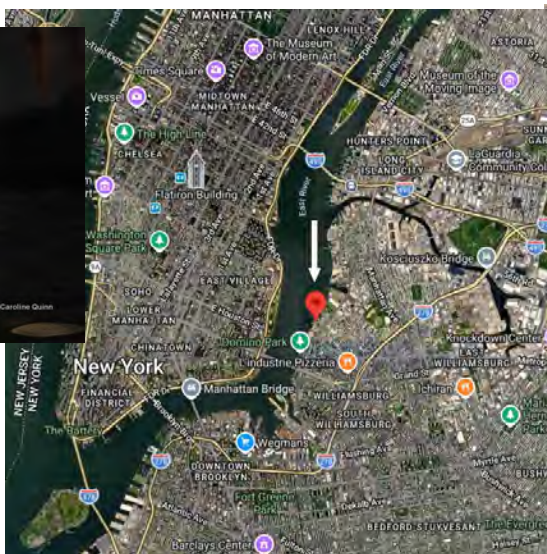
Splash!

- ⇒ **Swan Conference registration is open! See pages 6-8.**
- ⇒ **Fantastic all-day field trip! See swan families!**
- ⇒ **Learn from swan experts – 2 days of presentations!**
- ⇒ **July 7-9, 2026. Where: Baraboo (near Wisconsin Dells), WI**

**Thanks to you, special swan sightings were reported!
New York City had a new swan celebrity!**



Caroline Quinn



Trumpeter Swan (left)
with Mute Swan (right) in
NYC on East River,
March 9, 2026

Ali & Tyler Swann

(c) Ali and Tyler Swann

A wild trumpeter swan was sighted on New York's East River, near Brooklyn. It was reported through Trumpeter Watch in late February through mid-March. Its arrival caused a media and birding stir! The swan was seen in the company of a lone mute swan.

Above middle: the location in red (white arrow pointing to pin) for one report about this NYC visitor!

Thanks to you, special swan sightings were reported!

Thank you for your support of Trumpeter Watch. You tracked special swan sightings in early 2026! Each report was reviewed and shared where needed, including with the state or provincial team that collared or wing-tagged any marked swans.

Reports of marked swans provide vital information about swan longevity and mortality, locations and times of year of swan movement, and even document swans in research projects!

Here are a few of the reports recently submitted with that special information!



Unusual out-of-state visitors to Ohio! Left: Ontario swan Y56 made its first reported visit to the USA in March. It was reported near the West Virginia border!

Above: Virginia swan Z668 has been reported several times over the past few years in Ohio.



Age: When swans are captured and 'marked', the bander records the date and location of the banding, and gender and age, if known. Here are two long-lived swans that were recently reported!

Right: Ontario swan 131 is at least 26 years old, hatching before 1999. Above: Wisconsin swan 20N is 17 years of age, still with its original collar! It was reported in Minnesota.



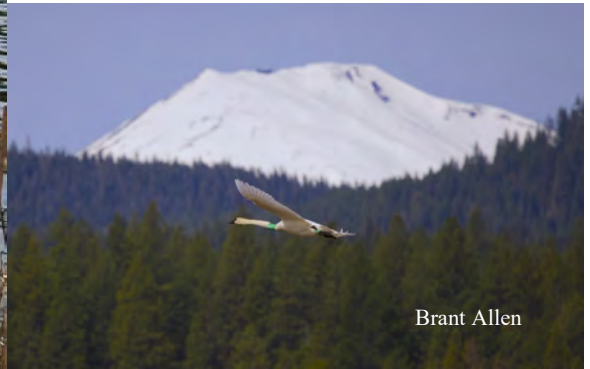
Thanks to you, special swan sightings were reported!



Victoria Willson



Victoria Willson



Brant Allen

New swan behavior information! Can swans with no flight location knowledge fly back to where they hatched? Yes, they can!

Trumpeter swans 57@ and 59@ hatched at Sunriver Nature Center in Bend, Oregon in 2024. They were to be released into the wild at Oregon's Summer Lake Wildlife Area as part of the Oregon Restoration Program. In the fall of 2024, when just a few months old, before fledging, the swans were driven to Zoo Idaho as part of a swan release protocol. They spent the winter there with other swans that would be released in southern Oregon in 2025.

In June 2025, the swans were driven from Idaho to Summer Lake Wildlife Area in Oregon, fitted with their collars and released into the wild where they would take their first flight. In late March 2026, 59@ and its sibling 57@ flew to a golf course in Bend, and the next day returned to Sunriver Nature Center to visit their parents, and then explored other areas.

Brandon Reishus, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife remarked, "Pretty amazing that a bird that never took flight at Sunriver and was transported to Zoo Idaho and then to SLWA, somehow knows where it was from and can find home."

Swans in new places!

Trumpeter Watch reports include sightings in new areas. A young swan was reported in South Carolina on March 1, 2026. The reporter wanted confirmation of species.

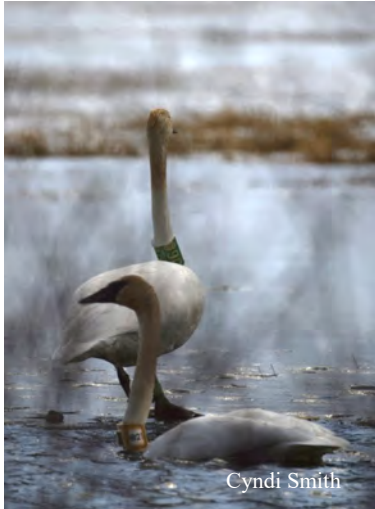
"This swan is on a pond in Saluda, SC. Several other people photographed the swan as well, but there is disagreement as to whether it is a Tundra Swan or a first-winter juvenile Trumpeter Swan."

We confirmed it was a trumpeter swan.



Alison Davies

Thanks to you, special swan sightings were reported!



GPS swan tracking research projects updates:

There are several recent or ongoing GPS/GSM swan tracking projects. Trumpeter Watch reports document the swan locations, the condition of the collar, and if the swan is alone, paired or has a family.

Above left: Oregon winter-collared swans GPS/GSM @21 and its mate 06@ were reported in Alberta. Tracking revealed @21 and @06 spend summers in Northwest Territories.

Above center: Ohio GPS/GSM swan 8M was reported near its capture location. This swan was part of the 3-year Midwest tracking study (2019-2022). Although the collar no longer transmits data, reports inform the Ohio Division of Wildlife and the University of Minnesota project leader the location of the project's swan during the year.

Iowa swan tracking project update:

As part of the 2019-2022 Midwest GPS tracking project, Iowa put non-transmitting green collars on some cygnets in September 2020. This was part of a family travel study by the Iowa DNR. Most cygnets had a parent with a GPS/GSM collar. 5P4 did not.

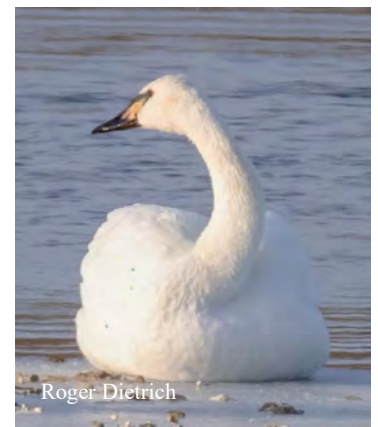


The first Trumpeter Watch report of 5P4 was February 2022 at Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge in Missouri. In late March, 2026 it was reported in south central Minnesota (photo, right).

Swans with unusual coloring:

South Dakota (Lake Yankton)

The Trumpeter Watch reporter asked why trumpeters may have yellow spots and what is the known rate of trumpeters with yellow spots. Dr. Kenneth Abraham, Board Member, responded, "Some Trumpeter Swans have yellow spots. Likely less than 1%. Sometimes it is in a different position on the culmen. It is probably a deep genetic throwback but occasionally it's linked to other anomalies like leucism or possibly even backcross with Tundra Swan. In any case it is exceedingly rare."



Welcome new board members!

We offer grateful thanks to outgoing board members Dave Myers, Dan Casey, Tiffany Mayo, and Mark Vrtiska for their years of volunteer service.

TTSS 2026 Officers are Jeff Nelson (President), Brad Bortner (Vice President) and Maryanne Coughlin (Treasurer). We welcome our newest board members:



Jim Dubovsky: Jim was hired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1992 and retired in 2021. He held several positions during his tenure, all with the Migratory Bird Program – Population Biologist; Assistant Migratory Game Bird Coordinator and later Chief of Migratory Birds for the Mountain-Prairie Regional Office; and Central Flyway Representative for the Division of Migratory Birds.

Jim has worked on various aspects of Trumpeter Swans, including drafting status reports for the Rocky Mountain Population of Trumpeter Swans, assisting with the development of the Rocky Mountain Population Trumpeter Swan Implementation Plan, working with researchers on a genetics study, developing Environmental Assessments for swans across all four flyways, and assisting in litigation proceedings regarding the status of Rocky Mountain Population swans nesting in the U.S.



Jim Hawkings: Jim first encountered Trumpeter Swans in Alaska while working on the Copper River Delta during the late 1970s. He took his interest in the species with him to Whitehorse, Yukon after graduation, where he worked for 29 years as a biologist for the Canadian Wildlife Service. He spearheaded that region's participation in the North American Trumpeter Swan Survey, and has also taken a special interest in swan migration areas in the southern Yukon.

Jim's part of the continent is characterized by pristine wilderness and he is a strong advocate of Trumpeter Swans as a flagship species for healthy wetlands. He helped initiate Yukon's Celebration of Swans, with 'swan headquarters' at Swan Haven in Whitehorse.



Mark Lindberg: Mark has been involved in waterfowl conservation in some capacity since his first job as a waterfowl technician in 1984. After working for Delta Waterfowl from 1986-1988, he completed a MS degree in Wildlife Management from Cornell University, then a PhD in Wildlife Management at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). He worked for Ducks Unlimited as a research scientist before joining the wildlife faculty at the University of Montana. Alaska was still calling, however, and he returned to UAF in 2001 as a wildlife faculty member, 2001-2022.

Mark's work has focused on Waterfowl and Wetland conservation throughout his career. He has also completed extensive research on waterfowl in interior Alaska, where Trumpeter Swans predominantly breed. Since retiring, Mark has pursued a career in wildlife photography and photo journalism where he focuses on using his images and his writing for conservation messaging.

You're Invited! 27th TTSS Swan Conference!

Discover...Learn...Experience

27th Swan Conference of The Trumpeter Swan Society

JULY 7-9, 2026 IN BARABOO, WISCONSIN

WWW.TRUMPETERSWANSOCIETY.ORG ([LEARN MORE](#))

Where: HoChunk Gaming/WI Dells | S3214 County Rd BD
| Baraboo, WI | 53913 | (800) 746-2486 |

The Baraboo/Wisconsin Dells area is a wonderful place to explore and enjoy on your own and with your family. (Add on some vacation days for family fun!)

A block of rooms have been reserved. Ask for the "Swan Society Conference room block".

The Conference location is about 10-15 minutes from downtown Wisconsin Dells and around 5 minutes from Baraboo.

Tuesday, July 7 and Thursday, July 9 are presentation days. There will be swan updates from across North America. There will also be a viewing of our PBS film, 'Return of the Trumpeters' and a presentation by the filmmaker about making the film.

Wednesday, July 8: All day field trip. A fantastic all day field trip is planned for Wednesday, July 8. It will be led by the renowned George Archibald, co-founder of the International Crane Foundation (ICF) who "knows where every nesting swan is near Baraboo." Following a tour of ICF and a chance to see the world's crane species, you'll explore the Center at the Leopold Foundation (home to Leopold's **The Shack**, a National Historic Landmark), then on to Necedah National Wildlife Refuge to see swans, whooping cranes and a wetland project.



We'll explore the area to view young swan families in their summer wetland habitat. A fun and fascinating field trip is in store!

Thursday evening, July 9. The conference wraps up with a **Thursday evening Gala banquet** (6:00-9:00 pm) complete with an amazing silent auction including hard-to-find swan and nature items. You will have a great experience for a great cause. All proceeds support swan programs across North America to assure the vitality and welfare of wild trumpeter swans.



Yes! I want to register for the 27th Swan Conference

Choose your registration options:

Full Registration (includes Presentations, Field Trip & Gala & Auction—Best Value)

***OR* You can pick and choose your options!**

If you want to attend only one day of presentations, choose the Single Day option.

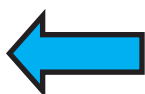
If you want to attend both presentation days only, choose the Presentations Registration.

Or maybe you want to attend only the Field Trip, or Gala Banquet & Auction.

You can do that too. It's up to you!

Payment options on backside— check or credit card

Options	Who will attend	Cost/ person	# people	Total
Full Registration: 2 days presentations, Field Trip, Gala (best value)		\$180		\$
Presentations: 2 days		\$60		\$
Single Day Presentation: Tuesday		\$30		\$
Single Day Presentation: Thursday		\$30		\$
Field Trip— all day		\$75		\$
Gala Banquet & Auction		\$60		\$
	My additional gift		TOTAL	



**Or scan this QR code with
your phone and register now!**



The Trumpeter Swan Society
12615 Rockford Road
Plymouth, MN 55441-1248

Web: www.trumpeterswansociety.org
Email: ttss@trumpeterswansociety.org

Make a gift to help swans at
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Or tax-smart gifts from your DAF,
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or stocks

In This Issue:

- Swan Conference registration is open
- Trumpeter Watch—special swan sightings!
- Welcome new board members
- Learn more and register for the Swan Conference

Yes! I want to attend the Swan Conference

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Platinum
Transparency
2026

Candid.

Total from other side \$ _____

☐ Check, payable to the Trumpeter Swan Society

☐ Credit Card # _____ (V, MC, Amex)

(Exp: ____/____ CVC _____ 

**Learn more or register online:
www.trumpeterswansociety.org**

Signature: _____

TRUMPETINGS EDITORS

Margaret Smith, Gary Ivey, Jeff Nelson

Go to www.trumpeterswansociety.org for a listing of the Board of Directors and Staff