



TRUMPETINGS

Voice of the Trumpeter Swan Society

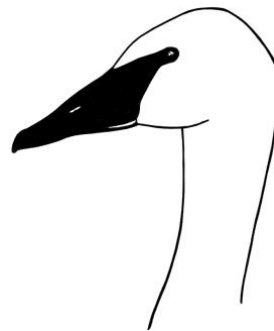
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Since 1968: Assuring the vitality and welfare of wild Trumpeter Swans

VOL. 35 No. 1

MAY 2025

LinkedIn Followers received “Swan Sunday” posts

Thanks to you (and Board member, Maryanne Coughlin), LinkedIn followers learned about trumpeter swans. Here’s a recent post:

Swan Sunday, entry #38. Lasting impact

Our April webinar, “Red Rock Lakes NWR– where saving swans began” left me thinking about people as much as the wildlife.

I was struck by:

◆ Ding Darling’s bold idea to fund refuges with a 1934 duck stamp. The Duck Stamp program now raises about \$50 million/year to purchase and restore wetlands.

◆ Winston Banko writing the definitive “Swan Bible” as a monograph in 1960, still used today by swan managers. It can be downloaded for free on the Trumpeter Swan Society’s website.

◆ Refuge crews who braved blizzards for 57 consecutive winters so a species could survive by winter feeding twice a week.

◆ And the Fish and Wildlife Service who helped the birds “graduate” to wild independence by ending supplemental feeding.

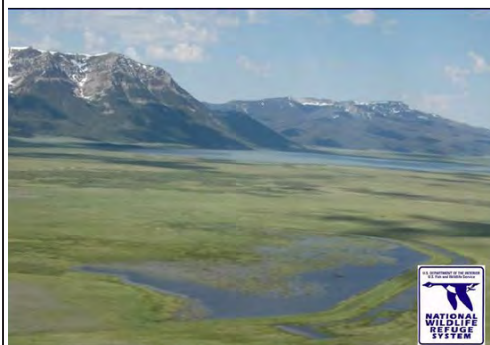
Their dedication turned a mountain valley marsh and more in Montana into the cradle of trumpeter swan recovery and a haven for wolves, grizzlies, sage-grouse and more.

The lesson for me: lasting impact = passion + persistence + partnerships

If you need an uplifting conservation saga, catch the replay on our website (‘Swan Webinars’ on home page).

Follow us on LinkedIn to receive “Swan Sunday” posts by Maryanne Coughlin

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-trumpeter-swan-society>

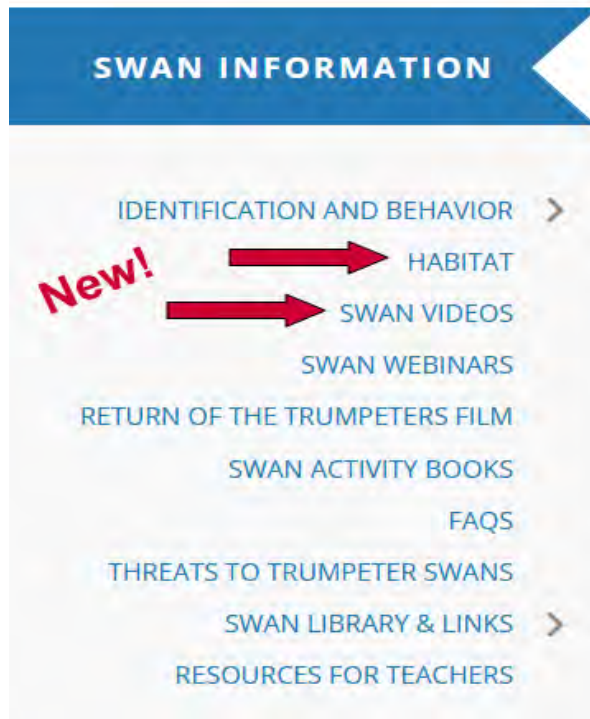


Your generosity funded this webinar. Thank you!

Bill West, retired Red Rock Lakes NWR manager (center) shared this remarkable story.

New Habitat and Swan Videos web pages!

New web pages were created thanks to you! Now you can learn why wetland habitat is essential to wildlife and people, and swan behaviors as families and in groups!



Your support added two new web pages to the Swan Information section of our website!

These two new educational pages were created for you to better understand swan needs and swan behavior.

“**Habitat**” shares vital information about wetlands, and their benefits to wildlife and people. It includes easy ways to immediately help wetlands, such as purchasing a federal “Duck Stamp”. The page also has quick links to our wetland-related webinars.

“**Swan Videos**” has quick links to more than 18 playlists on our YouTube channel with more than 100 videos showcasing and explaining swan behavior. Playlists include Flight, Takeoffs and Landings; Swan Families; Swan Communications; Swan Fun, Action and Disputes!; Cygnets First Summer (and more!)

New Board Member Welcome!



Lisa LaFranco Scheuch saw trumpeter swans at Church Slough in Montana shortly after being elected to the board! Church Slough is an Ebird hot spot for migratory birds.

We welcome our newest board member, **Lisa LaFranco Scheuch, PhD**. Lisa is an accomplished veterinarian and comparative pathologist with 30 years of experience in comparative medicine and disease diagnosis across multiple animal species.

With a solid foundation in comparative medicine, veterinary science, and environmental science, Lisa has gained a strong understanding of the interconnections between environmental, animal, and human health.

Currently, as a Director at Merck & Co., Inc., Lisa leverages her expertise in nonclinical drug development across various therapeutic areas. She collaborates with global scientific and regulatory teams, mentors a diverse group of scientists, and is skilled at strategic planning and risk assessment.

A lifelong learner, she engages in leadership and specialized scientific programs and is passionate about protecting wildlife and their habitats. In her free time, Lisa and her family enjoy exploring diverse ecosystems.

Actions in Washington will harm swans and their habitat

The ongoing recovery of the Trumpeter Swan across North America has been the result of public-private partnerships, environmental regulations, conservation incentive programs, and management and research efforts by dedicated government employees.

But we have entered a time when the deregulation, defunding and downsizing efforts of the current administration may have profound impacts on Trumpeter Swans, other waterbirds, and their habitats.

We have already seen significant cuts to environmental protection laws, grants programs that affect wetland habitats, and staffing within federal agencies that deliver essential scientific surveys, habitat and management programs. For example, funding and staffing for National Wildlife Refuges has already been cut drastically. More than 70 refuges provide habitat for swans during some portion of the year.

Our Board and Conservation Committee are committed to advocating on behalf of you and all our donors, and the swans themselves. We have already gone on record opposing rollbacks of National Environmental Policy Act requirements, restrictions on the activities of non-profits, potential changes to the Endangered Species Act, and staffing at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey.

We will continue to work with other organizations to identify opportunities to amplify our concerns and advocate for the following priorities to ensure that birds and their habitats continue to be effectively conserved for the benefit of all Americans:

- ⇒ **The Endangered Species Act:** Support this landmark legislation with wide bipartisan support that has helped recover our national bird, the Bald Eagle, and other imperiled species and their habitats.
- ⇒ **The Migratory Bird Treaty Act:** Ensure this 107-year-old law continues to protect migratory birds from intentional harm and unintentional take.
- ⇒ **Federal Funding and Staffing for Birds:** Maintain and grow essential sources of federal support and expertise for migratory bird conservation.
- ⇒ **Land Management for Birds and People:** Ensure that public lands remain public, are properly managed for wildlife, and that recreational access is maintained while science drives management decisions.
- ⇒ **Programs that Encourage Voluntary Conservation Practices:** We also acknowledge that many other national and state initiatives (e.g. Farm Bill Conservation Practices) are of critical importance to birds, and that citizens and private enterprise can play vital roles in these conservation efforts.

What can you do? Contact your Senators and House Members to urge them to vote against further deregulation and staffing cuts to these and other programs essential to wildlife conservation, and to restore funding and staff that have already been cut.

One source for “Action Alerts” can be found at the American Bird Conservancy website (americanbirdconservancy.org) and their Bird Conservation Alliance page (click “Get Involved”).

Daniel Casey, TTSS Conservation Committee Chair

Oregon winter swan tracking taught students GoogleEarth skills

EDUCATION & RESEARCH

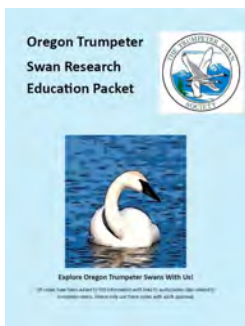
NORTH AMERICA SWAN POPULATIONS >
RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT
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TRUMPETER WATCH >
EDUCATION & RESEARCH >
 Webinars
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New!



Tracking Oregon Swans

To visit the page and explore the fascinating findings and watch the webinar of the Oregon winter swan tracking project, go to our website > What We Do > Education & Research > Tracking Oregon Swans.



A new web page was created which doubles as a teacher and student resource for grades 7-12. The page is “Tracking Oregon Swans” and is about swans that winter in Oregon that received GPS/GSM tracking collars to learn where they summer, migrate and rest.

On the web page you learn why the tracking project was needed, how swans were captured and collared, and you can explore maps of individual swan travels.

In 2022, TTSS was awarded a grant from the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund to support research on the growing number of migrant swans that spend the winter in Oregon. TTSS purchased 12 collars for this project that were placed on trumpeters at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and Summer Lake Wildlife Area in Oregon.

The grant also called for the creation of education materials for students to learn from the project.

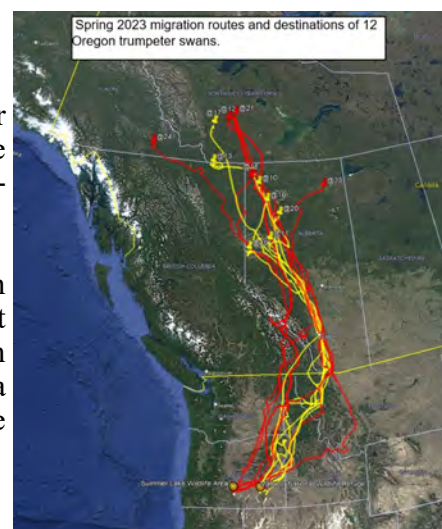
One education resource included our January 2025 webinar, “Tracking Oregon swans using GPS collars.” You can access the webinar on the new page. This webinar shared fascinating information about the project. It also included a demonstration for students on using GoogleEarth to track one of the GPS collared swans.

Instructions for students in the webinar included calculating altitude and speed just as a biologist would using GoogleEarth coordinates over time. Below and on the next page are results from the study.

Spring 2023 migration (right):

The swans departed their winter sites at Malheur and Summer Lake from mid-March through mid-April.

They all flew NNE across eastern Washington, Idaho and northwest Montana, and then flew north through eastern British Columbia and Alberta to areas east of the Rocky Mountain Range.



Above: Another education resource on the web page is the Oregon Trumpeter Swan Research Education Packet available for download by educators.

Oregon winter swan tracking taught students GoogleEarth skills

Summer sites: (right)

The swans arrived at their summer destinations between April 8 and May 8 (yellow pins).

Seven summered in Alberta, three in Northwest Territories, and one each in NE British Columbia and Yukon. They departed for their wintering sites between September 19 and October 28.

The importance of Trumpeter Watch, our citizen science swan reporting program (below):

Trumpeter Watch: Thanks to your support of Trumpeter Watch, our citizen-science swan reporting program, photographs and reports of actual sightings of some of the GPS/GSM swans were shared in the webinar!



BJ Worth: @20 in Montana, March 20, 2024
Location: 48.143226°N, 114.198475°W; Church Slough, Flathead County, MT on east side of river
Details: 1 white swan; White neck transmitter with black solar panels, code @20. Swimming with mate.



Linda Vick: @16 in Alberta, November 1, 2024
Location: 51° 5'26.92"N, 114°32'16.70"W; Cochrane, Alberta, South of Town of Cochrane at the northwest corner of Jumping Pound Road & Trans Canada Highway.
Details: Same location as last transmission in April 2024.



Above: Left @20 was reported at Church Slough, Montana.

Right: GPS swan @16 was spotted in November 2024 near Cochrane, Alberta

Kari Monagle: @21 in Washington, March 18, 2023
Location: 51° 5'26.92"N, 114°32'16.70"W; Turnbull NWR.
Details: First saw the white collared one with 7 other swans on Lower Pine Lake. There was also a green collared swan with the group. Later I saw both collared swans flying overhead. Green collar ended with 90.



Jennifer A Reimer: @21 in Alberta, April 10, 2024
Location: 51.17956, -115.60587
Details: Vermillion Lakes. 2 swans had neck collars, one green with code 06@ and the other neck band was a GPS collar with code @21.



Above: Left: Only one pair had both the male and female receive collars; @21 with mate (green collared) 06@. The pair was spotted at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge near Spokane, Washington in April 2023. Right: The pair was spotted in April 2024 at Banff National Park in Alberta on their way north.

More than 250 swan sightings were reviewed, thanks to you

Thanks to you, more than 250 Trumpeter Watch reports from 29 states and provinces were reviewed and shared since January with the appropriate banders and agencies.

For example, New York and Pennsylvania citizen-scientists reported 5 different Ontario swans that caused quite a stir in local communities. A swan rehabbed in Washington was reported in British Columbia. A marked swan from the Madison River project in the Greater Yellowstone was reported in northern Utah.

Reports of 5 Wisconsin rehabbed swans between May 2023 and January 2025 meant a great deal to the Wisconsin wildlife rehabbers. Below are photos of two of the swans. They were rescued as a group of cygnets, taken to the Raptor Education Group (REGI) in Antigo, Wisconsin and fostered by a captive swan pair. In May, 2023 the Wisconsin DNR marked the 5 swans to learn what happens when swans are released back to the wild. REGI shared the photos (below) of the young swans at the facility before release.

One swan, 0T0 was a real traveler, spending time in northern Wisconsin during its first couple years after its May 2023 release, flying across Lake Michigan to spend time in Pentwater, Michigan, flying back to Wisconsin, and then spending the 2025 winter at Riverlands, Missouri! Its sibling, 4T5 spent time in northern Wisconsin in 2023 and 2024 and was reported in Illinois in January 2025 with a mate!

All of the rehab swan sightings of 0T0 and 4T5 were from Trumpeter Watch. REGI staff were thrilled to receive reports of ‘their swans’ thriving in different locations in the Midwest, thanks to you!



Your urgent gift today will advocate for swans and their habitats

Right now is a time when the deregulation, defunding and downsizing efforts of the current U.S. administration will have profound impacts on Trumpeter Swans, other waterbirds, and their habitats. We know you don't want this and you share our deep concern.

There have already been significant proposed negative changes in environmental protection laws, grant programs that affect wetland habitats, and staffing reductions within federal agencies that deliver essential scientific surveys and habitat and management programs.

Your urgent help is needed. Your gift will help the Board and staff work with other groups and organizations to advocate for the following priorities to ensure that birds and their habitats continue to be effectively conserved for the benefit of all Americans.

- ♦ The Endangered Species Act
- ♦ The Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- ♦ Federal Funding and Staffing for Birds
- ♦ Land management for birds and people
- ♦ Programs that encourage Voluntary Conservation Practices



© Margaret Smith

***Your urgent gift will advocate for swans and their habitats. Mail a check or donate securely online:
TrumpeterSwanSociety.org/advocate***

Yes!

***I want to advocate for swans
and their habitats***

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stocks**



Or scan with your phone to
make your secure gift now



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12615 Rockford Rd.,
Plymouth, MN 55441-1248**

OR

Donate securely **online** through credit card or
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www.trumpeterswansociety.org/advocate

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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
"How to Help"

Or consider a gift from your DAF,
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(QCD), or stocks

In This Issue:

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Become a monthly donor! Advocate for swans every day!

Monthly Donation Authorization Form:

Yes, I would like be a monthly donor to help swans every day

I authorize *The Trumpeter Swan Society* to electronically debit my account monthly on the *18th* of each month as follows:

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☐ \$5 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$15 ☐ Other \$ _____

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It reduces our costs so you help swans even more.

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Your gift will be ongoing until you change or cancel it by contacting our organization directly. **Thank You!** (You can also directly signup for online monthly ACH withdrawals on our www.Trumpeterswansociety.org/advocate web page).

TRUMPETING EDITORS

Gary Ivey, Jeffrey Nelson, Margaret Smith

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