



TRUMPETINGS

Voice of the Trumpeter Swan Society

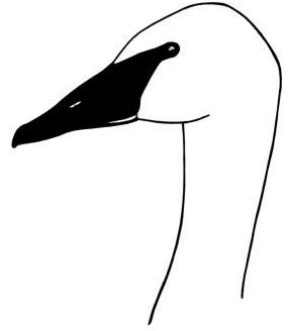
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EIN: 23-7220654



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

VOL. 34 No. 1

MAY 2024

Children learn about trumpeter swans, thanks to you!

Where Did The Trumpeter Swan Go?

Using the GPS Tracking Data coordinates from the journal on the right, plot the movements of trumpeter swan #23. Mark a dot on the grid for each recorded point and then draw a line connecting all your points to reveal the route that trumpeter swan #23 took.

SCAN ME
to watch a trumpeter swan fly in and land with the group at a winter site.

Trumpeter Swan GPS Tracking Data

| DATE | COORDINATES |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Jun. 15 | S5 |
| 2. Oct. 24 | P8 |
| 3. Nov. 3 | M12 |
| 4. Nov. 8 | K10 |
| 5. Nov. 14 | J14 |
| 6. Nov. 17 | I17 |
| 7. Dec. 7 | H16 |
| 8. Dec. 15 | H18 |
| 9. Jan. 6 | D22 |
| 10. Jan. 15 | C24 |

SCAN ME
to see actual migration routes that swans have taken.

Trumpeter Swans
How Can I Help?

An Educational Coloring & Activity Book – 3rd-5th

Thanks to you, students in grades 3-5 will learn about trumpeter swans and their habitats! This new Coloring and Activity book can be downloaded for free from our website. Perfect for home and classroom use. Meets Next Generation Science Standards. Go to: Swan Information > Swan Activity Books

Grade 3-5: "Trumpeter Swans- How Can I Help?" explores the many ways people help swans and their habitats. Meet the people who take care of wildlife, study birds, keep water clean and stop flooding, have fun programs at zoos, design collars that track swans and more!

Solve the Maze of Dangers, track a swan, do a Wetland Word Search and much more!

There are QR codes to scan that will take you to lots of fun videos and web pages to learn even more!

These books were designed exclusively for the Trumpeter Swan Society by Peppermint Narwhal.

Jim King's lasting legacy



James G. King
1927-2024

Thank you to Jim King's family and friends for the information about Jim's memorable life

A wildlife and swan champion of epic proportions with a humble and fun-loving personality, Jim King passed away March 31 at age 96. Jim King worked as a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for most of his career, advocating wildlife conservation in Alaska. He was instrumental in establishing/adding to nine national wildlife refuges protecting over an additional 55 million acres of waterfowl habitat. His specific passion was birds. He was an innovator in the field of waterfowl population surveys, developing schemes to measure migratory bird populations throughout Alaska. A TTSS member since 1976, Jim was a Past-President of TTSS.

As a wildlife biologist/pilot, Jim flew many wildlife surveys in the back country of Alaska. In 1968, Jim designed and conducted the first range wide census of Trumpeter Swans in Alaska when the species was in peril across North America. Jim's initial statewide trumpeter swan survey planted the benchmark that preceded the species' recovery. His resulting spatial data has been used countless times in protection of nesting habitats in Alaska. In the 2002 Distinguished Service Award ceremony for Jim, the Secretary of the Interior praised Jim as "steadfast in his quest to ensure a place for wildlife in our modern society and he continues to be an inspiration to all who know him." Jim received many awards for his outstanding service.

In the 1960's, Jim was the first refuge manager for the now Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. Jim's vision was to identify and protect habitat across Alaska and beyond. His legendary duck roundups in Yukon Flats (over 22,000 ducks banded in three years) revealed the breadth of migratory pathways previously unknown. This banding work along with his waterfowl surveys of Yukon Flats was instrumental in Secretary of the Interior Udall's decision to oppose the proposal to dam the Yukon River at Rampart that would have flooded an area the size of Lake Erie and destroy the area now protected as Yukon Flats NWR.

Jim retired from Government service in 1983 but continued working with birds until well into his 80's. Besides spending time with his family, his favorite activity was to fly around at low altitudes, looking for birds and other interesting things anywhere in Alaska.

Throughout his life Jim had the habit of documenting events; he was an accurate, creative, and entertaining

Jim King's lasting legacy



Above: "Jim flying the Trumpeter counts in N754, the turbine powered beaver and his (and my) favorite airplane." Bruce Conant



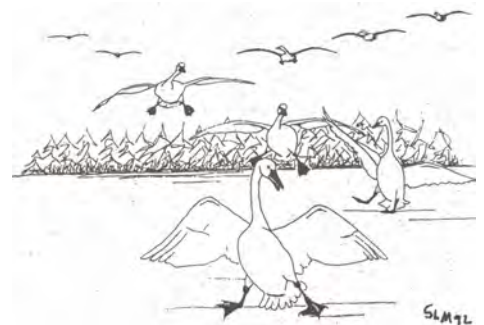
Swan History Makers Above: Hank Hansen on the right who started Trumpeter surveys in Alaska (1959), Jim King in the middle who designed/conducted the first Trumpeter Census in Alaska in 1968 and continued in 1975 and 1980, and Bruce Conant on the left who flew/headed up the Trumpeter Censuses in Alaska in 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005. Photos this page courtesy of Bruce Conant

writer. As a wildlife biologist, he authored over 60 scientific publications and, in retirement, wrote a memoir of his life titled "Attending Alaska's Birds". Alaska literature was one of his passions, and he was especially proud to have contributed. This wonderful book of stories includes his shared experiences with his wife, Mary Lou, their children, and his many colleagues and friends.

In his book, "Attending Alaska's Birds" Jim wrote, "The swans have led to great rewards in the form of personal education, family pleasure and contact with other swan fanciers. I do hope we have contributed in the 20th century in a way that will help the enormously larger human population of the 21st century want to make a place for a grand free-flying population of a few hundred thousand wild swans."

Did you know?

- ⇒ Jim King created the first *Trumpetings* newsletter. Thirty-four years later, you are reading the current issue!
- ⇒ In 1991 Jim made the first donation creating the North American Swan Fund through a legal settlement shared by lawyer Greg Cook. Jim's donation of \$5,000 was matched by Bob Ritchie. It has grown since then through the generous donations of people like you.
- ⇒ The Fund has been used in recent years for partner research projects such as reasons behind the decline of swans in Yellowstone National Park, the purchase GPS/GSM collars for Midwest and western tracking, western habitat partner protection projects and education books for children (pg. 1). Do you want to help? You can! (pg. 7)



Drawing of Alaskan swans by Jim's daughter, Sara, used in *Trumpetings*.

Trumpeter Watch brings exciting sightings!

Thanks to you, there were exciting reports through Trumpeter Watch in early 2024 that were shared with researchers and banders. Here are just a few of those exciting sightings.



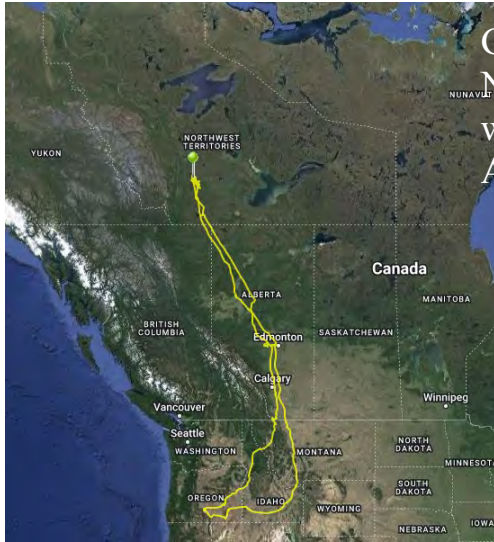
Left: Six young swans from Yellowstone National Park were reported nearly 1,100 miles away in central Kansas in late February through mid- March.

Right: A trumpeter swan with yellow on its bill was reported in Heber Springs, Arkansas. This coloration is rare.

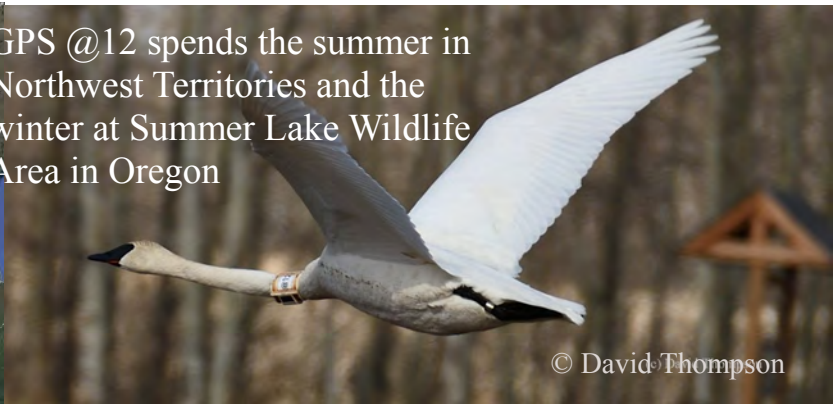


Left: GPS swan 8L returned in January to Heber Springs, Arkansas after spending the summer in southwest Ontario. Right: Wisconsin GPS swan 5P was reported in January at Riverlands, Missouri.

Trumpeter Watch brings exciting sightings!

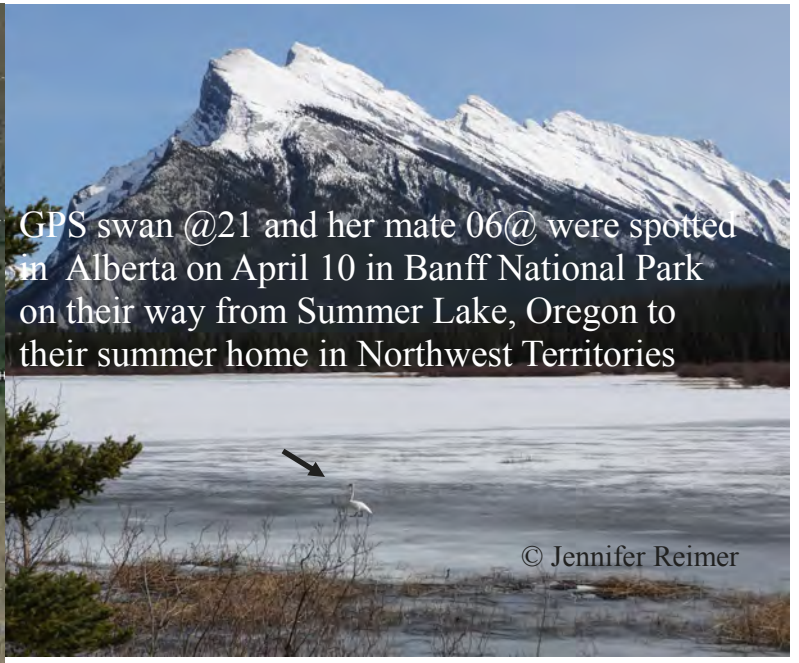
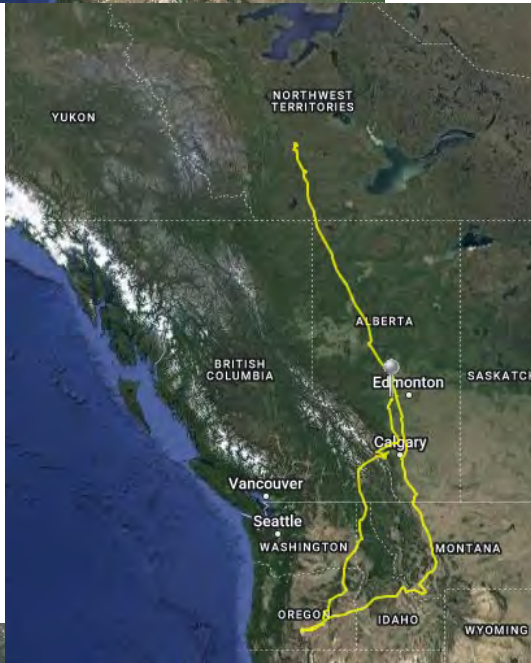


GPS @12 spends the summer in Northwest Territories and the winter at Summer Lake Wildlife Area in Oregon



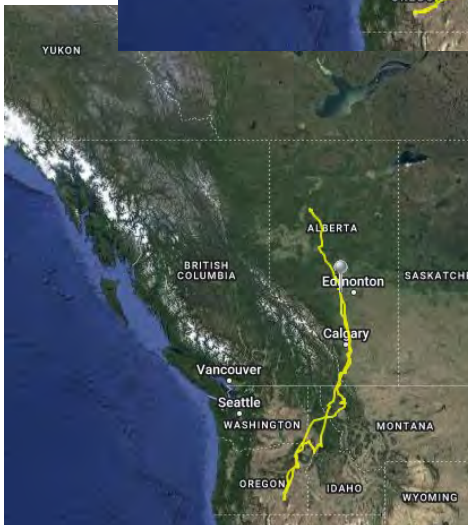
© David Thompson

GPS swan @12 was reported through Trumpeter Watch in Barrhead County, Alberta on April 10 while migrating north.

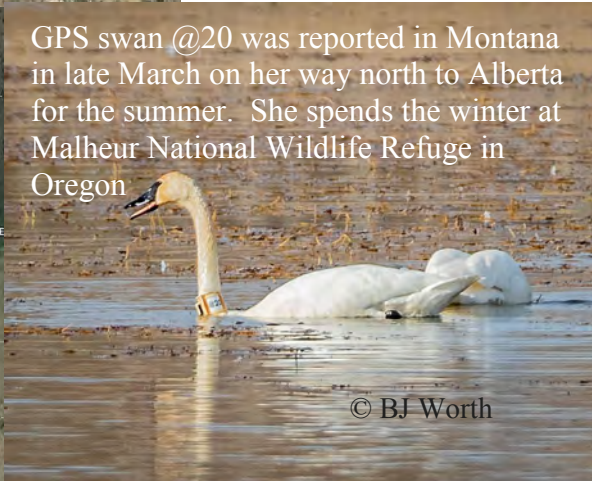


GPS swan @21 and her mate 06@ were spotted in Alberta on April 10 in Banff National Park on their way from Summer Lake, Oregon to their summer home in Northwest Territories

© Jennifer Reimer



GPS swan @20 was reported in Montana in late March on her way north to Alberta for the summer. She spends the winter at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon



© BJ Worth

Thanks to you, these swans received GPS collars in Oregon in February 2023. The swans were spotted during this spring's migration north and reported through Trumpeter Watch. Maps show their movements over a year.

Trumpeter Watch brings exciting sightings!



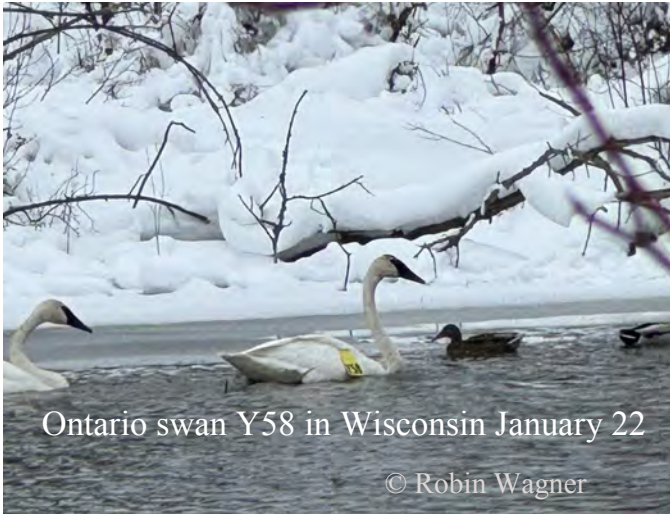
Ontario swan R63 in Michigan
March 16

© Sara Wadington



Ontario swan K10 in Michigan
January 21

© Jenna Bacolor



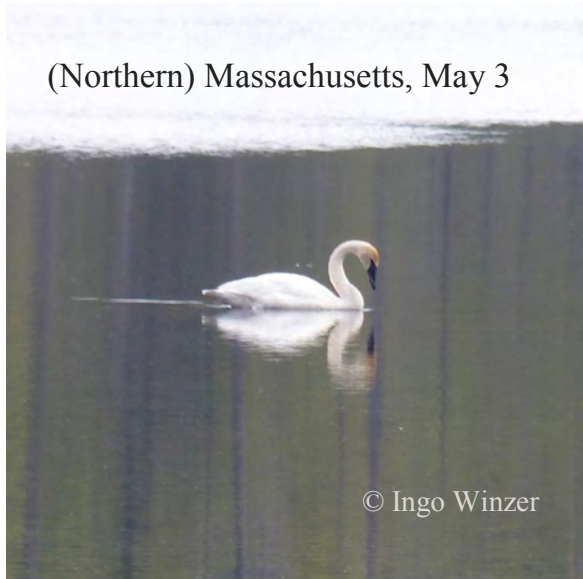
Ontario swan Y58 in Wisconsin January 22

© Robin Wagner



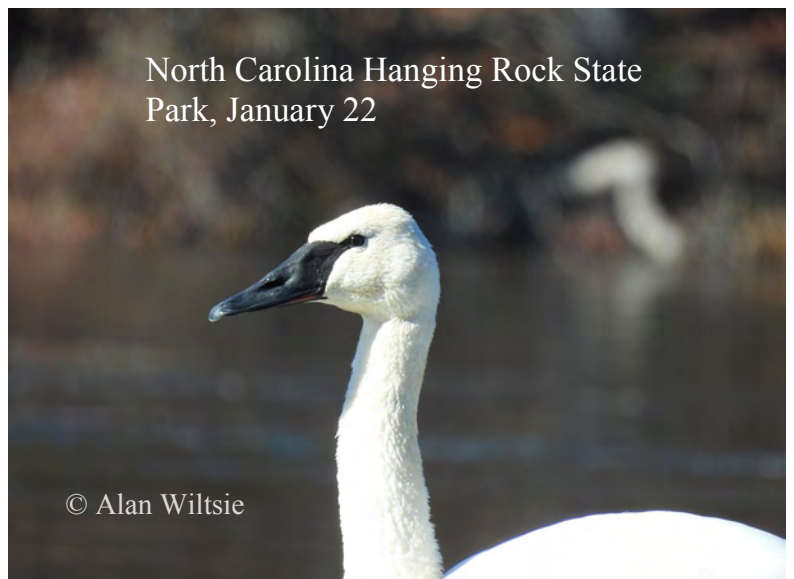
Ontario swan P61 in Virginia January 21

© David Carr



(Northern) Massachusetts, May 3

© Ingo Winzer



North Carolina Hanging Rock State
Park, January 22

© Alan Wiltsie

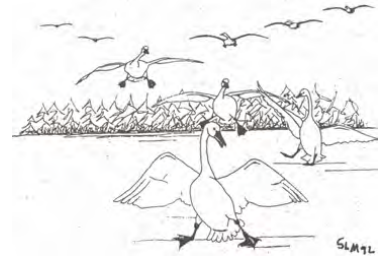
Yes! I want to help swans like Jim King did

It was through the vision and generosity of Jim King the **North American Swan Fund** was established as an endowment in 1991.

You can help swans like Jim King did with a gift today to the North American Swan Fund.

Your donation to the North American Swan Fund is needed for critical swan research, habitat protection, and education about trumpeter swans and the habitats they need to thrive.

Your caring and generous gift today will honor and build on the generosity of Jim King and his love for the beautiful trumpeter swan.



Scan with your phone to donate securely online to the North American Swan Fund

*Mail a check or donate securely online:
TrumpeterSwanSociety.org > How to Help >North American Swan Fund*

Yes!

I want to make a gift to the North American Swan Fund

Donate by check or credit card

*(To make a monthly gift through your bank or savings account, please use the form on the back page)
Consider a gift from your DAF, IRA or stocks*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Mail to:
**The Trumpeter Swan Society,
12615 Rockford Rd.,
Plymouth, MN 55441-1248**

OR

Donate securely **online** through credit card or ACH at **www.trumpeterswansociety.org**,
How to Help >North American Swan Fund

My Gift for the North American Swan Fund

\$ _____ [] One time [] Monthly

I prefer to give by:

____ Check, payable to TTSS if one time or Void if for monthly

____ Credit Card __ Visa __ MC __ Discover __ AmEx

Card # _____

Card Expiration date ____/____ Security Code _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____



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"
Consider a gift from your Donor Advised
Fund, (DAF),
IRA, Qualified Charitable Distribution
(QCD),
or stocks

In This Issue:

- Children learn about trumpeter swans, thanks to you
- Jim King's Lasting Legacy
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- Yes! I want to help swans like Jim King did

Become a monthly donor for the North American Swan Fund!

Monthly Donation Authorization Form:

Yes, I would like to be a monthly donor for the North American Swan Fund

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

Monthly Gift Amount

\$5 \$10 \$15 Other \$ _____

Checking account Savings account

Credit card (fill in other side)


Bank Name _____

Routing Number: _____

Account Number: _____

Your gift will be ongoing until you change or cancel it by contacting our organization directly.

Signature: _____

Making a donation using direct withdrawal via ACH from your checking or savings is fast, easy, and secure. 

It reduces our costs so you help swans even more.



Thank You! (You can also directly sign up for online monthly ACH withdrawals on our [How to Help > North American Swan Fund](#) web page).

TRUMPETINGS EDITORS

Gary Ivey, Jeffrey Nelson, Margaret Smith

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

