

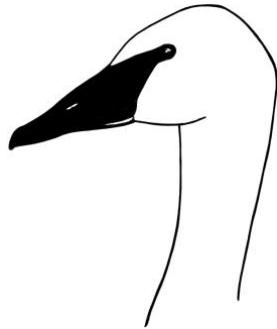


TRUMPETINGS

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. 35 No. 3

DECEMBER 2025

Thanks to you, nearly 3,000 people learned about swans!

Thanks to you, nine educational webinars in 2025 shared fascinating stories and information about trumpeter swans, wetlands, waterfowl ID and more. **You can watch the webinars on the Swan Webinars page in the Swan Information section of our website.** Each webinar has a direct link to the recording.

Below are descriptions about each webinar and one of the comments from an attendee. Each webinar is about an hour in length which includes questions and answers. Your support made these webinars a reality. **Thank you!**

TRACKING OREGON SWANS: In early 2023, a dozen wintering swans were captured and received GPS collars in Oregon. Biologists wanted to know where these swans spend their summers, their migration routes in spring and fall, and whether they raise families. Learn how the swans were captured and collared. Explore some of the results, and how GoogleEarth and the GPS data from each swan is used by biologists.

"Excellent presentation by all 3 speakers! The potential educational & research value of this project are almost unlimited."

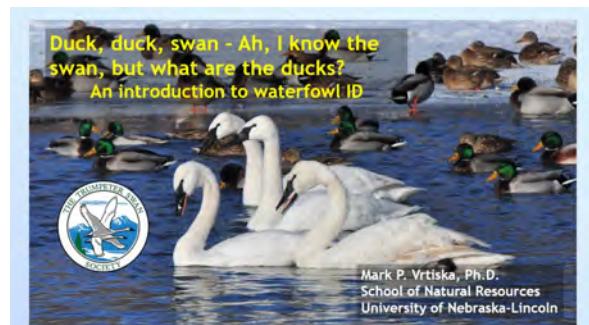


This webinar is also a teacher resource for grades 7-12.

WATERFOWL ID: Other waterfowl can be found with trumpeter swans. If you don't know what species they are, this webinar will provide a preliminary guide to identifying the most common duck and goose species you may see, whether you live in the east, midwest or west.

Welcome to the wonderful world of waterfowl!

"This is a great webinar for both swan people and people that are learning both birds and waterfowl. Something for everyone."



Thanks to you, swan webinars were a success!

Thanks to you, future generations will know the story of the return of trumpeter swans across North America and the issues trumpeter swans face. You made it possible to create, record and share these webinars.



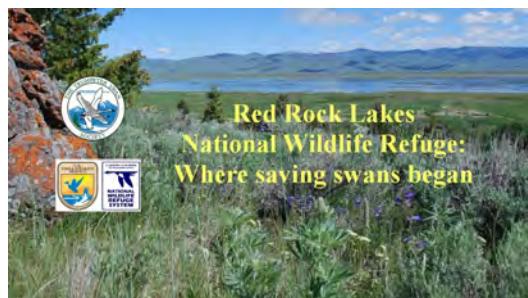
An Introduction to Wetlands- the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

AN INTRO TO WETLANDS: Wetlands are an important ecosystem that provides habitat for plants and animals, but have multiple benefits to humans. In this webinar, you will learn:

- How to know if you're looking at a wetland
- The different kinds of wetlands you may see or have in your area
- Wetland functions and benefits
- The current status of wetlands (losses, threats, and protection)

And, finally, how you can help.

"A very good introduction to wetlands and the threats they face."



RED ROCK LAKES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE:

Discover the pivotal role this wild and beautiful refuge played in saving trumpeter swans. The remote Centennial Valley is on the north side of the Continental Divide, in Southwest Montana. It is a vast, high-elevation, nearly intact landscape of forest, sagebrush steppe, wet meadow, and the largest wetland complex in the 20-million-acre Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The Refuge was created in 1935 to save what was believed to be the nearly extinct trumpeter swan. Discover the story of where saving swans began.

"All of it- this history lesson, maps & photos were fantastic and thoroughly enjoyed. Could have listened to more."



Presenters: Dr. Jasper Lament & Dr. Rob Butler

NATURE TRUST
BRITISH COLUMBIA

BRITISH COLUMBIA: British Columbia is the winter home of thousands of migrating swans from Alaska and Yukon. British Columbia has both winter and summer nesting swan habitats.

Explore how the Nature Trust of BC and its partners purchased, protected, restored, and managed thousands of acres of key swan habitats, many on private lands. Success stories are shared, along with the stories of some of the special properties used by swans.

"I found information specific to Canadians and BC particularly interesting."

Thanks to you, swan webinars were a success!



MICHIGAN: The W.K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary played a crucial role in the reintroduction of the Trumpeter Swan in Michigan. The effort was led by the late Joe Johnson. Discover the story of almost 100 years of waterfowl conservation, research, and education at this special nature center. Learn about the state's current population and the factors impacting them today. Explore the travels of Michigan swans that were part of the Midwest GPS tracking study.

"I liked the historical overview, the coverage of efforts to restore Trumpeter Swans in Michigan, and the GPS project. Great pictures & maps!"



ASK THE SWAN EXPERTS: SWAN BEHAVIOR: Did you ever wonder what swans are doing, and why? Now you can find out! Watch short and engaging videos of swan behaviors. Explore swan behaviors during the year. Learn how to recognize and prevent some swan health and safety issues.

"The short videos of their behavior were wonderful, and their interpretation by the two experts was especially helpful. Great job!"



NAWMP— the story of people, partnerships and action for continental conservation: The North American Waterfowl Management Plan celebrates 40 years of conservation progress in 2026. Its lessons are clear and simple. The importance of voluntary partnerships. Partners need to care about outcomes, not credit. Integrity and trust are crucial, as is evaluating programs and adapting to biological and social change. "It was an awesome presentation...I learned a lot about the 40 years of conservation efforts, and was especially interested in the many partnerships that enabled this to happen!"



OHIO: Discover the process required by a state for trumpeter swan restoration, including the role of the Flyway approval. Learn how the state's historic wetland loss and growth of the non-native mute swan population influenced management actions in Ohio. Explore the fascinating movements of Ohio trumpeter swans with GPS/GSM collars that were part of the Midwest trumpeter swan movement research.

"Excellent presentation! Informative and interesting! So cool to see wonderful success in Ohio! Fun to see the far travels of some collared swans!"

Trumpeter Watch Highlights – How you tracked swans

Thanks to you, hundreds of Trumpeter Watch reports were submitted in 2025 from 32 states and 5 provinces. Each was reviewed and shared where needed, including with the state or provincial team that collared swans. Here are just a few of the swans you tracked in 2025.



Left: Ontario swan N01 in Michigan in November 2025. This was the first report of this swan outside of Ontario. N01 hatched in 2022 and was tagged in January 2023 at LaSalle Park, Burlington, Ontario.

Right: Oregon swan, GPS collar @20, was reported in Alberta, Canada in March 2025.



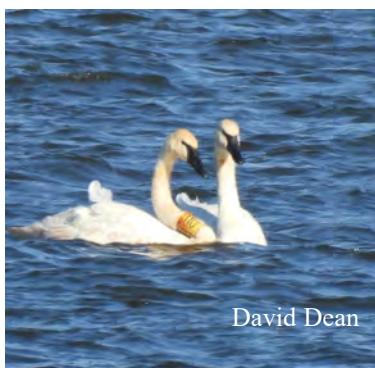
Linda LeDuc reported these two swans in Montana from different restoration programs! Left: Red collared K31, a swan from the Flathead program, was reported in Flathead Valley in December, 2025.

Right: green collared swan 9@4 was collared in Oregon in 2021 and was reported at Church Slough, Montana, March 2025.



Green collars: Iowa swans have either green or red collars. Left: Swans 4P2 and 4P4 are part of an AR/IA migration experiment more than 10 years ago. They were reported in Arkansas in January 2025.

Right: Iowa swan 7P0 was collared in 2020 and was reported in Missouri in December 2025.

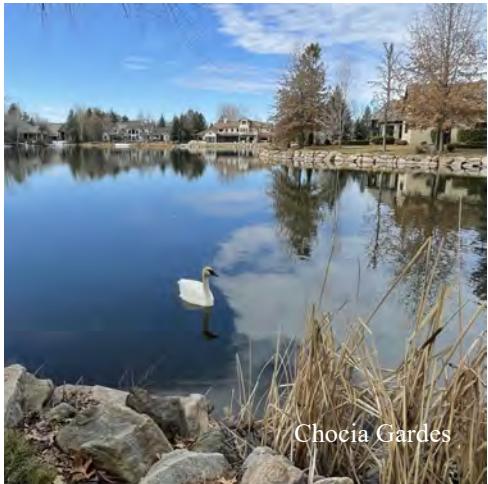


Yellow collars: Left: Wisconsin swan 11U was reported at Riverlands (MO), Dec. 2025. 11U is 20 years old!

Right: Washington uses yellow collars on injured or sick wintering swans that are rehabbed, then returned to the wild. K43 was rehabbed in 2021 and reported in Jan. 2024 and Dec. 2025 through Trumpeter Watch.



Trumpeter Watch Highlights (cont.)



Chocia Gardes

“Swan surprises”

Left: not all Rocky Mountain swans are found in wild places. A swan pair showed up in this Idaho development near Eagle, Idaho in February 2025.

Right: Maryland has a few nesting trumpeter swans. In October, 2025, this family was observed near Annapolis, Maryland, having nested on restricted property managed by the U.S. Navy.



Susan Okula

Save the date— Swan Conference— July 7-9, 2026



*Save the date!
Plan to attend!*

**When: July 7-9, 2026
Where: Baraboo, Wisconsin**

Mark your calendars! The 27th Swan Conference of The Trumpeter Swan Society will be held in Baraboo, Wisconsin (near Wisconsin Dells!). **It will be a summer conference— so you will see young swan families on the planned field trip.**

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 fantastic all day field trip is planned for Wednesday, July 8. It will be led by the renowned George Archibald, 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 area to view young swan families in their summer wetland habitat and much more! A fun and fascinating field trip is in store!

Tuesday, July 7 and Thursday, July 9 are presentation days. There will be swan updates from across North America including the recently completed Interior Population Swan Management Plan for trumpeter swans east of the Rockies.

Thursday evening is a delicious banquet and auction. Proceeds support swan programs. All are welcome!

Plan to come. Sign up for the field trip. Be a sponsor. Donate a silent auction item. Bring your curiosity and sense of adventure! To learn more, contact Margaret Smith (ttss@trumpeterswansociety.org) for additional information. Check out our website for more information as it becomes available.

Member Corner– update from Turnbull NWR in Washington

Story and photos by Carlene Hardt

I was out to Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge near Spokane, one lovely blue sky day in mid-October in hopes of seeing how the two Trumpeter Swan families were doing.

At Kepple Lake, I observed the single cygnet scooting rapidly along in the water by exercising its wings ("scuttling" they call it), and happened to notice that its flight feathers looked filled in, so it would be only a matter of days before it could fly.

Later, I parked and walked along the Pine Lake Loop. It was fun to watch the swan air show! The six swans from Cheever Lake circled around Pine Lake and directly over me a couple of times before they headed back to Cheever where they landed. What a magnificent sight!

Later, when I reviewed my pictures, I noticed that one of the cygnets had some feathers missing in one of its wings but it did not hinder it from flying. I do wonder what happened...

This swan family group did a lot of synchronized flying. It sure looked coordinated!



There are more than 70 National Wildlife Refuges that are used by swans during the year!



When they return next year, the cygnets' plumage will be whiter and perhaps they will stay with the parents until the next nest is built. The parents will then make space and resources for their next clutch by encouraging their young swans to find their own territory. After leaving their parents, the juvenile swans might remain as a sibling group until they are about two years old before finding their own mates.

Both the Kepple and Cheever swan families might still be somewhere on the refuge. I hope I will get to see them before they migrate once ice begins to cover their food and water sources, which usually happens after Thanksgiving.

These swans will at least go south or west to the nearest ice-free lake or wetland, but hopefully they will return to the refuge as soon as the ice melts in the spring.

Ways you can help swans and be tax smart in 2026

Looking for tax smart giving options with the new tax law changes? Many people choose to give from their assets— stock gifts, gifts from their IRA, and grants from their Donor Advised Fund to see even larger tax savings.

Are you 70 1/2 years or older? Give directly from your IRA to maximize your impact and minimize your taxes. If you are 73 or older, a QCD will also count towards your Required Minimum Distribution. **And it's easy to do.** Just tell your IRA plan administrator that you want to make a gift from your IRA to TTSS. They will send us a check and then report that gift as counting against your IRS required annual distribution.

Tax smart ways to give at any age:

Appreciated Stock Gifts: Your gift of an appreciated asset, often stock or mutual fund shares, is a valuable way to make a contribution to help swans. By giving appreciated assets, you can reduce capital gains taxes on the appreciation and receive the current tax deduction on the full value of the gift. TTSS immediately sells your stock to help swans right away.

Donor Advised Fund: If you currently have a Donor Advised Fund consider designating a gift to the Trumpeter Swan Society. When you donate through your DAF, you will receive an immediate tax deduction for your entire contribution. DAFs are the most beneficial options if you are considering giving a large sum of money in one year and then spreading it out to your favorite charities.

**We advise you to consult your attorney or a tax professional about how tax benefits may apply to your specific situation. The Trumpeter Swan Society's tax identification number is 23-7220654. Call TTSS for more information (715-441-1994).*

<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	Area of Greatest Need	 I want to help swans!
<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p>Mail to: The Trumpeter Swan Society, 12615 Rockford Rd., Plymouth, MN 55441-1248</p> <p>I prefer to pay by:</p> <p>Check, payable to TTSS Credit Card <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MC <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> AmEx</p> <p>Card# _____</p> <p>Card Exp _____ / _____ Security Code _____</p> <p>Name on Card : _____</p> <p>Signature _____</p>		
<p>The Trumpeter Swan Society is a United States registered 501c3 non profit charity. Donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by United States law.</p> <p>OR make your donation securely online at www.trumpeterswansociety.org</p>		



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 tax-smart gifts from your DAF,
IRA, Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD),
or stocks

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Become a monthly donor! You are helping 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:

Monthly Gift Amount

\$10 \$15 \$25 Other \$ _____

Checking account Savings account

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Exp: ____ / ____ CVC ____

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.

Platinum
Transparency
2025

Candid.

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 [How to Help >Donate](#) web page).

TRUMPETINGS EDITORS

Gary Ivey, Margaret Smith

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