



TRUMPETINGS

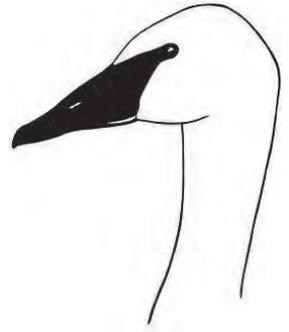
Voice of the Trumpeter Swan Society

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

VOL. 33 No. 1

MAY 2023

Thank you for creating a winter swan home!



You purchased fencing and an aeration system for this new winter home for young swans! Thank you!

Thanks to you, young swans that will be released into the Oregon wild have a safe, new winter home!

You fenced in this large remote wetland to keep young swan safe from predators.

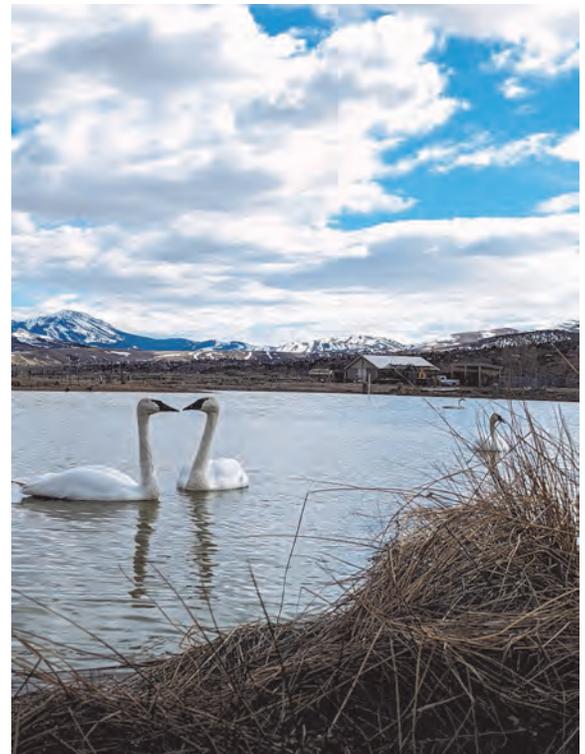
Thanks to you, an aeration system keeps water open and ice free in cold weather.

Because of you, young swans will have a chance to mature and grow strong before they are released into the wild.

This 3.5 acre Idaho wetland belongs to Zoo Idaho, our partner.

Young swans will have minimal human contact. This prepares them for life in the wild.

Young swans will come from the Sunriver Nature Center in Bend, Oregon and from zoo swan pairs. ♦



Above: Thanks to you, young swans are starting to arrive in their brand new, safe home to mature and grow strong before they are released into the Oregon wild.

More young swans will be joining them soon.

Photos by Peter Pruett, Zoo Idaho

You put tracking collars on swans wintering in Oregon



Thanks to you, a dozen swans received GPS/GSM collars in February. Alexa Martinez holds one of the swans that was captured and collared during a bitterly cold night at Oregon's Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.



Photo above: Swans with both GPS/GSM tracking collars and green non tracking collars are ready for release at Summer Lake Wildlife Area.

Thank you for putting tracking collars on swans wintering in Oregon By Dr. Gary Ivey

A dozen swans received tracking collars at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and Summer Lake Wildlife Area on February 13 and 14, 2023.

Your support, plus a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund, assistance from Malheur National Wildlife Refuge staff, Summer Lake Wildlife Area staff and the Friends of Malheur NWR made it possible to purchase and deploy a dozen tracking collars.

Catching swans that can fly is no easy task.

One of the best methods is night capture. This uses bright spotlights to confuse swans on a very dark night when the moon is waning. The darker the better. Heavy cloud cover and rain or snow really helps.

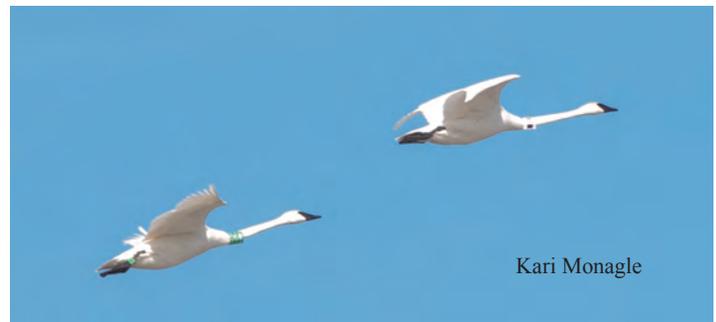
February 13 was such a night.

There were 7 GPS/GSM collars to deploy at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon.

Capture also involves a fast airboat that will allow access to shallow wetlands the swans are using.

Refuge law enforcement officer, John Megan, our boat pilot, was no stranger to night lighting and skillfully maneuvered the boat over ice and through marsh shallows to chase the swans.

You put tracking collars on swans wintering in Oregon

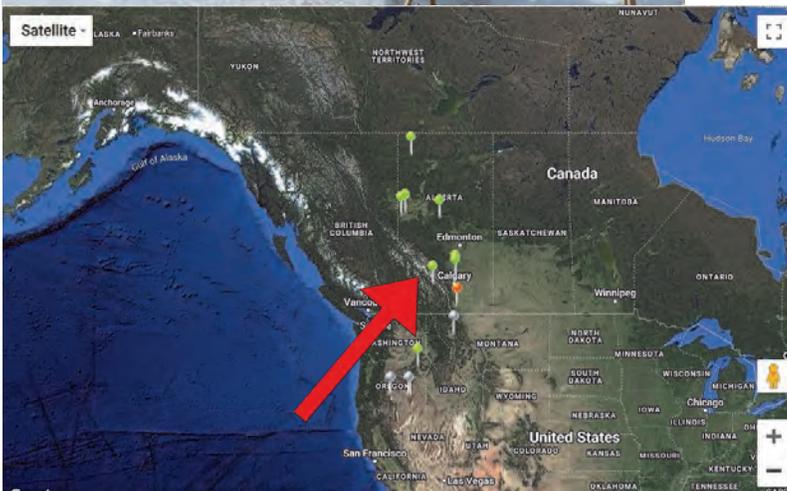


Thanks to you, a dozen Oregon wintering swans are being tracked through GPS/GSM collars. One GPS/GSM female swan @21 has a mate 06@ with a non tracking green collar. It was the only pair with both swans marked.

Photo upper left: Female swan @21 was released on February 14, 2023 at Summer Lake Wildlife Area in Oregon.

Photo upper right: Two months after receiving collars, GPS/GSM female swan @21 and her green collared mate 06@ were reported through Trumpeter Watch by Kari Monagle at Turnbull NWR's Lower Pine Lake on March 18.

Left: Google Earth map showing @21 (with mate) at Banff National Park, April 27, 2023 (red arrow).



Refuge biologist Alexa Martinez and P-Ranch substation manager Zack McCoy skillfully netted the swans.

The temperature was so bitterly cold and windy I got an ice cream headache!

After two very cold hours we successfully caught and marked 7 adult trumpeters!

Meanwhile, not so far away (~100 miles) the **Summer Lake Wildlife Area crew were also catching swans that night.**

They marked 5 female swans with GPS/GSM collars plus 5 mixed sex swans with conventional coded green neck collars. There is one GPS/GSM collar left to deploy.

The next day, the five swans with GPS/GSM tracking collars and five swans with green non-tracking collars were released at Summer Lake Wildlife Area. ♦



Above: Thanks to you, green collared male swan 02@ was reported in Alberta through Trumpeter Watch.

This swan also received its non-transmitting collar in February at Summer Lake Wildlife Area. He was reported near Calgary, Alberta on April 11 by Lisa Adler.

Swan health report from the Pacific Northwest

HPAI (Avian Influenza), power line collisions and lead poisoning caused the most swan deaths in Northwest Washington and Sumas Prairie, British Columbia this winter.

There seemed to be a decline in lead related deaths this winter. Unfortunately, new this winter was the highly transmissible Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) as a suspect in 64 swan deaths. Because of HPAI safety protocols, those 64 swans were not analyzed to confirm HPAI or lead.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and partners monitored trumpeter swan night roost sites and agricultural areas. They looked for sick, injured and dead swans from November through March. They had a call-in hotline. The Canadian Wildlife Service compiled the suspected cause of deaths throughout the season.

Preliminary results show this winter there were 310 swan deaths with 12% as lead suspect, 31% as powerline suspect, and 21% as HPAI suspect (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza). ♦

November 9, 2022- March 26, 2023	Lead suspect	Powerline suspect	HPAI suspect	Other trauma	Undetermined	Feather Pile	Total
Sumas Prairie, BC		4	5	2	3	17	31
Whatcom County	11	23	28	1	18	5	86
Skagit County	17	48	16	1	24	3	109
Snohomish County	5	14	10		31		60
Clallam County		2	2		3		7
Pierce County	2		1		1		4
San Juan County		1					1
Island County		2	1				3
King County	2	1	1		5		9
Totals	37	95	64	4	85	25	310

The passing of two swan champions



David Lockman
1947-2022

Trumpeter swans lost two good friends in the last year. Both were long time board members. Both had a deep passion for trumpeter swans. David Lockman (left) was inducted into the Wyoming Outdoor Hall of Fame. He made significant, lasting lifetime contributions to the conservation of Wyoming’s outdoor heritage. He also helped restore and expand trumpeter swan populations in Wyoming.

Ruth Shea (right) researched and advocated for western trumpeter swans especially those in the Yellowstone Ecosystem. She was a vigorous swan champion. She was the first Executive Director of the Society and served as President and Treasurer during her many years of board service. ♦



Ruth Shea
1952-2023

TTSS welcomes new Board members

We offer our grateful thanks to outgoing board members Kent Duckworth and Kyna Intini for their volunteer board service. TTSS 2023 Officers are Jeff Nelson (President), Tiffany Mayo (Vice President) and Dave Myers (Treasurer). We welcome our newest board members:



Maryanne Coughlin is Boston-based Director at PwC. Maryanne has more than 20 years professional experience in client service, product management, market research, editing, communications, marketing and management, and as an independent consultant, writer and award-winning short film producer. Maryanne's interest in wildlife and waterfowl started as a child growing up in Maryland near the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay. She is committed to making nature and the outdoors more accessible to everyone and supporting the vitality and welfare of wild trumpeter swans with the Trumpeter Swan Society.



Ken Abraham is an Emeritus Research Scientist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. He retired in 2013 following a 40 year career in wildlife ecology and conservation. He worked with the public, non-government organizations, First Nations and other governments by helping develop and implement wildlife population and habitat management and monitoring plans. He was a member of the team that undertook the first continental assessment of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. He was previously on the board of Birds Canada and is currently on the board of Trumpeter Swan Conservation Ontario.



Brad Bortner retired from the US Fish and Wildlife Service after 33 years as a migratory bird biologist and manager. He served as Chief, Division of Migratory Bird Management in USFWS Headquarters from 2011-2017. During his career, Brad was involved in many partnership efforts to conserve and manage migratory birds and their habitats. His job took him to Russia, Japan, and to all Canadian Provinces and States in the United States. Brad served on the boards or technical committees of several Joint Ventures. He also worked closely with all four Flyway Councils and their Technical Committees. Brad spent a year studying swans under Dr. William Sladen in graduate school before completing his master's degree research on the bioenergetics of Tundra Swans wintering in North Carolina.

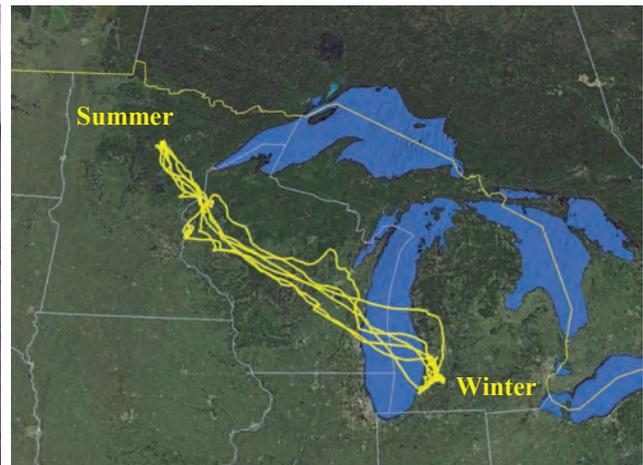


Kelly Schouten is a full time Educator at the Kansas City Zoo. She delivers educational programming and outreach to a wide variety of groups both on and off-site. She uses her skills communicating to a variety of audiences and spreading important conservation messages. She has designed age-appropriate curriculums for school-age audiences for both classroom settings as well as for youth camps. Trumpeter swan conservation became a passion project in 2019 when she attended the swan releases in Iowa. Since then, she has worked on creating trumpeter swan and wetland educational content for the Trumpeter Swan Society and the Kansas City Zoo. She has recently been named the leader of the Kansas City Zoo's Trumpeter Swan Conservation Program. ♦

Thank you for tracking swans! A swan story...

Thank you for your support for Trumpeter Watch and purchasing tracking collars. Here's a story of 4T, a Minnesota female swan with a tracking collar. She is quite the traveler!

Melanie Martin first reported 4T in Michigan through Trumpeter Watch. By using the public tracking website, she was able to see and photograph 4T through two winters in southern Michigan. Here's her story of 4T this winter. 4T's movements since July 2020 are mapped by David Wolfson, University of MN.



MN-4T came to Michigan this winter around November 27, 2022 with her mate and two cygnets.

The first home her family chose for the winter was North Lake in Gobles, Michigan. She would sometimes visit the nearby Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery and farm fields.

As the weather turned colder and the lakes froze the swan family spent more time at the Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery. The waters there are warmer and did not freeze completely.

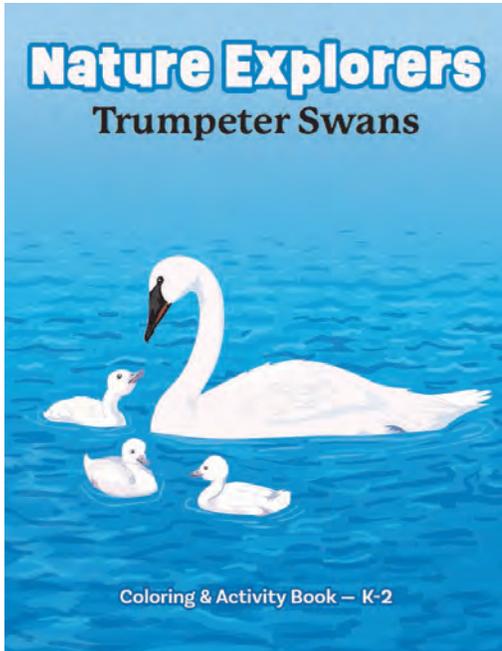
The weather turned a little warmer at the beginning of February. We had days above freezing. Most of the trumpeter swans began to gather at surrounding harvested corn fields. They shared this space with 3 tundra swans, over 100 geese, 100-200 crows depending on the weather, turkeys, deer, eagles, red tailed hawks, rough legged hawks, and coopers hawks.

I spent large blocks of time watching them in the farm fields on the 18th and 19th of February. A few days later we had a major ice storm. There were power outages across our area. There were a lot of downed trees and wires. I avoided travel and waited for power to come back on.

The next weekend I didn't see her. I checked the online map and realized she had made it back across Lake Michigan! By the 23rd of February she had made it to the center of Wisconsin. By the 27th she was in the northwest corner of Wisconsin.

As of March 12th she and her family are back in Minnesota. She is now northwest of Grand Rapids, MN near the intersection of the Mississippi River and Deer River south of White Oak Lake. I look forward to seeing MN-4T and her new family when they return next fall! ♦

Help a child learn about swans and their wetland home



You know how important it is for kids to love nature and want to protect it.

Will you help a child learn about swans and their wetland home?

Your help is needed today to create two coloring and activity books that can be downloaded from our website. They can be used by a child anywhere in the world.

The education books have activities geared for different age levels.

Your gift of \$25 or more will help fund a page in a fun and educational book about swans and their wetland home.

Each page costs \$125 to design.

Each book is based on Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Mail a check, or donate securely online: TrumpeterSwanSociety.org > How to Help > Create A Book

Yes!

I want to help a child learn about trumpeter swans and their wetland home

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(To make a monthly donation, fill out the form on the back page)

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How to Help > Create a Book

My Gift to help a child learn about swans and their wetland home \$ _____

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Monthly Donation Authorization Form:

Yes, I would like to be a monthly donor to education projects

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 \$ _____

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

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

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Thank You! (You can also directly sign up for online monthly ACH withdrawals for education projects on our [How to Help > Create a Book web page](#)). If funds raised exceed the amount needed, your gift will be used where it is needed most.

TRUMPETINGS EDITORS

Gary Ivey, Margaret Smith

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