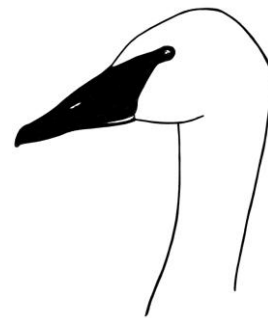




# TRUMPETINGS

*Voice of The Trumpeter Swan Society*

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*Since 1968: Assuring the Vitality and Welfare of Wild Trumpeter Swans*

Vol. XX11 No. 1

MARCH 2012

## GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



### WOW! MEMBERS RESPOND AND MEET THE CHALLENGE!

Many thanks to all members who renewed their memberships for 2012. Double thanks to those of you who are new members or increased your donations level over 2011. Last fall, a very generous TTSS board member pledged to match all new and increasing donations to The Trumpeter Swan Society, dollar for dollar, up to \$10,000. This challenge was made to assist us in increasing our organizational capacity by leveraging more money and in increasing our stability by having a larger membership base.

We are extremely pleased that **YOU** met the challenge, thanks mostly to generous responses from our existing members. However, we still need to boost our membership numbers to further increase our strength as an organization. In recognition of this, our benefactor has issued **another challenge of \$5,000!** You can help by sending additional donations (one-to-one match for every increase over last year), helping us recruit new members (one-to-one match for entire

donation), and through gift memberships (also one-to-one match). We are working hard to strengthen TTSS for the benefit of Trumpeter Swan conservation in spite of tough economic times. Help us expand support, for we are the only organization that is looking after North American swans 24/7.

### TTSS FACEBOOK PAGE GENERATING VALUABLE COMMUNICATIONS

The Society has been endeavoring to do a much better job of outreach and communication over the past several years. You would be amazed how few North American citizens have even heard of Trumpeter or Tundra Swans, let alone The Trumpeter Swan Society. We initiated a blog and periodic Enews and a Facebook page. Interest in swans has been growing through the use of these media. If you visit us on Facebook, you will see great photos, discussions, questions, and reports of marked swans. If you are a "swaniac" and need a daily dose, this is the place for you! Visit our Facebook page, sign up for Enews, and share these and your old copy of *Trumpetings* with friends, family, and colleagues!

### 2010 NORTH AMERICAN TRUMPETER SWAN SURVEY REPORT IS OUT

In the November *Trumpetings*, we highlighted a few of the results of the quinquennial Trumpeter Swan survey completed in 2010. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) just released the survey report, compiled by FWS biologist Deborah Groves stationed in Juneau, Alaska. Our hats are off to Debbie for coordinating and summarizing this massive undertaking. Along with FWS, Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), provinces, states, territories, other agencies, and other private organizations, TTSS is an active participant and facilitator. Survey costs have escalated dramatically and TTSS has called for a working group consisting of swan specialists from FWS, CWS, TTSS, and other partners to develop a strategy for funding and planning for the 2015 survey and beyond. The Pacific Flyway Study Committee is asking their Council to request the formation of such a group. This official population status survey is the only tool available to determine how Trumpeters are doing rangewide. Now that there are over 46,000 Trumpeters nesting nearly from coast to coast, **TTSS is calling upon FWS and CWS to make Trumpeter Swan monitoring a national federal priority in both countries rather than delegating the responsibility to their respective Regional Offices.**

It's time to think about spring, nesting swans, and walleye fishing!

- John Cornely

## TTSS BOARD of DIRECTORS



Our newest Director is Dr. Robert Blohm who retired on the last day of 2010 after a distinguished career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Bob Blohm has had a longstanding interest in waterfowl and waterfowl ecology after growing up along Saginaw Bay in the State of Michigan. He graduated from Michigan State University with a B.S. Degree in Fisheries and Wildlife in 1968. He then

began his graduate work at the University of Wisconsin, Department of Wildlife Ecology, where he received his M.S. Degree in 1977 and Ph.D. Degree in 1979, studying the breeding ecology of the Gadwall in southern Manitoba under Dr. Robert A. McCabe. His field work was conducted through the auspices of the Delta Waterfowl Research Station. His graduate studies were interrupted by military service, when he served as an artillery officer in Alaska and Vietnam. Following graduate work, he was hired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a staff biologist in the Office of Migratory Bird Management, in Laurel, Maryland. Bob remained in the Office (now Division) of Migratory Bird Management for his entire career, where he became Chief of the Division in 2007. He retired on December 31, 2010, after working nearly 32 years in the field of migratory bird management. Bob and his wife, Shari, have two sons, Andy and Matt, now grown. The entire Blohm family continues to enjoy a wide variety of outdoor pursuits.

## ALL IN A DAY'S WORK...

*From TTSS's Washington Swan Stewards Leader, Martha Jordan*



Officer Rosenberger and Martha Jordan from The Trumpeter Swan Society made a trip to Orcas Island to recover three captive-bred Trumpeter Swan cygnets from a private couple. The couple had purchased the swans this past summer, and were trying to sell them on Craig's List

due to the fact that the swans grew up and were picking on the couple's other domestic geese and ducks. The owners agreed that the swans would be better off if they went to The Trumpeter Swan Society. Officer Rosenberger, Ms. Jordan, and the owner successfully captured all three swans which appear to be in good shape and are on their way to happy homes. The owner was extremely grateful for Officer Rosenberger's skill, knowledge, and professional demeanor throughout the handling of the matter, and for The Trumpeter Swan Society's ability to step in and look to find happy future homes for the three young birds. All in all, this potentially tricky situation had a good ending. Trumpeter Swans may legally be obtained only from someone who possesses a valid federal Waterfowl Sale and Disposal Permit and, in some states, a state permit. This couple was unaware of the regulations and their possession of the swans was illegal.

## TTSS WELCOMES



## NEW MEMBERS

**Alaska:** Mr. & Mrs. Robert Blush-King Salmon; **Arizona:** Edith Jordan-Phoenix; **California:** Patrick Arciniega-Costa Mesa, Pamela Wright Lloyd-Mill Valley, John Taft-Ojai; **Connecticut:** William B. Buchanan, Jr.-New Canaan; **Delaware:** John Reddington-Newark; **Florida:** Stacey Johnson-Davenport; **Iowa:** Wayne Diederichs-Cresco, Michael Waite-Shenandoah; **Idaho:** Carmen Thomas-Boise; **Massachusetts:** Stuart Watson-Boston; **Minnesota:** Val Cunningham- St. Paul; Leslie Gillette-Hopkins, Ted Hanson-Bloomington, J.R. Lince-Hopkins - Chaska, Arne Myrabo-Monticello, Curt and Sandy Oien-St. Michael, Nancy Theiret-Minneapolis; **Missouri:** Travis Dillon-Puxico, William Matthews-Ferguson; **North Carolina:** Daniel Roselli- Charlotte; **Nebraska:** Mark Lindvall-Valentine; **New Jersey:** Susan Silberman-Wanaque; **Ohio:** Arthur & Mary Abel-Bowling Green; **Pennsylvania:** M.J. Fischer-Flourtown; **Washington:** Karen Parkkonen-Stevenson, Sean Rhodes-Lake Forest Park, Virginia & Earl Senger-Monroe; **Wisconsin:** Karen Bassler-Madison, Todd Highsmith-Madison; **Washington D.C.:** Susan Sayre.





# GREATER YELLOWSTONE TRUMPETER SWAN INITIATIVE

## Working for Long-term Viability

*By Ruth Shea, TTSS Greater Yellowstone Coordinator*

Trumpeter Swans that nest in Greater Yellowstone region are the only group that escaped extirpation south of Canada and are still the most vulnerable breeding group in North America. TTSS is working hard to help build a secure future for them. Numbers of adults and nesting pairs, however, are at less than 70 percent of the minimum objectives that managers hope to achieve by 2013. Only about 40 nesting pairs annually fledge cygnets and important nesting habitats have been degraded by a variety of factors.

We are most grateful to the Summerlee Foundation for a grant of \$20,000 to help support our work in 2012-13. Our goal is to use the best available data, science, and site-specific knowledge of key swan habitats to identify the necessary characteristics of a restored population in terms of numbers, other population parameters, and distribution. In addition, we will identify what management actions are needed to achieve long-term viability.

With scientists from the University of Idaho, we are modeling population vulnerability to various risks and identifying the importance of the nesting habitats owned by various agencies to the health of the swans. Several other scientists are currently conducting landscape-level analyses, which model habitats in the western U. S. and attempt to predict future wetland trends. We will be working closely with those large-scale efforts to develop new conservation methods that can integrate the essential site-specific habitat conservation needs of nesting Trumpeter Swans with these landscape-level efforts to meet their long-term habitat needs.



Our ultimate goal is to combine 80+ years of historical data and detailed knowledge of the biology of Greater Yellowstone's Trumpeters with the best science to answer the most important management question: What must be done to keep the Greater Yellowstone nesting population viable over the long term?

We will also focus on important site-specific issues. Working with on-the-ground managers and policy makers, we hope to:

- Develop a showcase conservation approach to minimize damage to crucial Trumpeter Swan habitats at Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge as fish managers implement grayling restoration strategies.
- Maintain or restore successful nesting on the highest quality nesting wetlands in Greater Yellowstone.
- Address fundamental problems like human disturbance and water-level management, while research continues on other factors that may also be contributing to nest failures.

### IN-DEPTH INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE

Ruth Shea recently updated the Greater Yellowstone Initiative section of website, listing TTSS's goals, objectives, issues, and projects for this vital campaign. Find out more at: [www.trumpeterswansociety.org/GYTSI](http://www.trumpeterswansociety.org/GYTSI)

# SQUAW CREEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE TRUMPETERS SET NEW REFUGE RECORDS THIS WINTER

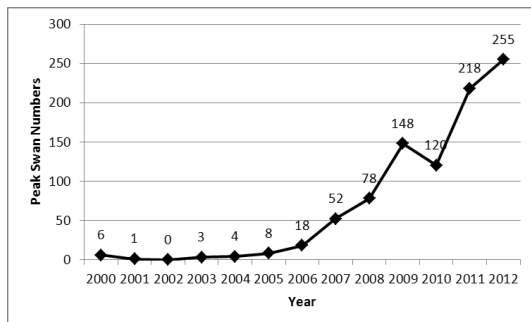
By Darrin Welchert, Wildlife Biologist

Shortly after Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) reintroductions began in central North America, sporadic Trumpeter observations occurred on Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge (SCNWR) during weekly waterfowl counts starting around 1994. Both Trumpeter and Tundra Swans (*C. columbianus*) could be found during fall and/or spring migrations. More constant Trumpeter use has been documented in recent years with numbers steadily increasing from 2000 to 2012 (Fig. 1).

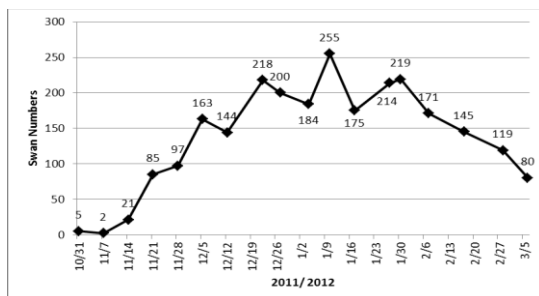
Birds are typically observed on the refuge from late October to April. The months with highest bird use are usually December and January with birds feeding, loafing, and roosting in the remaining open water almost always surrounded by ice in wetland impoundments. When wetlands completely freeze over, the swans leave the refuge.

Trumpeter numbers began to increase on SCNWR in 2006 and the first triple-digit number (148) was noted in 2009 (Fig. 1). The 2006 record was shattered on December 5, 2011, with 163 birds observed (Fig. 2). Then, 218 birds were seen on December 22, and 255 birds were counted on January 10, 2012. With wildlife not always being predictable, it's hard to say if this trend will continue, but SCNWR at the moment seems to be a popular place for Trumpeter Swan migration and wintering.

**Figure 1. Peak Trumpeter Swan numbers from 2000 to 2012**  
(source SCNWR weekly waterfowl surveys).



**Figure 2. Trumpeter Swan numbers from late October 2011 to early March 2012**  
(source SCNWR weekly waterfowl surveys).



## TRUMPETER SWANS IN SOUTHERN



## MCCURTAIN COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

By David Arbour, Oklahoma Department of  
Wildlife Conservation

Southern McCurtain County in Oklahoma is within the Gulf Coastal Plain Ecoregion and is bordered by the Red River on the south and the Ouachita Mountains on the north. The extreme southern portion of this county lies in the Red River floodplain with an abundance of oxbow lakes, agricultural fields, and some bottomland hardwoods. There are also numerous private and public wetland restoration projects in this area with the largest and most notable being the Red Slough Wildlife Management Area (WMA), a 5814-acre wetland. Red Slough WMA is project cooperatively managed by the U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

On January 30, 2007, two juvenile Trumpeter Swans were found at Red Slough WMA where they remained through at least March 24. No Trumpeter Swans were observed the following winter, but swans have occurred in the area every winter since then and have been regular visitors the past two winters. Until now, there were no more than 4 individuals seen; but this winter there have been 8-12 individuals in the area including both adults and juveniles. There were also reports over the past couple of winters of swans being seen on small private ponds north of the Red River Valley, which probably represent different birds. There are no reported sightings from the northern half of the county, but there are several sightings from Arkansas to the east. The range of dates of swans seen in the county is from December 13 through March 24. The swans only occasionally use the wetlands and reservoirs on Red Slough WMA. They much more commonly use the old oxbow lakes on private lands in the area and Ward Lake, a 330-acre reservoir, which is part of a private wetland restoration about ½ mile east of Red Slough. On a few occasions, the swans have been observed grazing in pastures and on small ponds.

Several oxbow lakes throughout the middle of the Red River Valley carry the name Swan Lake, indicating this region may have had historical value to swans. As the Trumpeter Swans continue their comeback, I believe the Red River Valley with its numerous oxbow lakes and restored wetlands will become an important wintering area for them.



## 2011-2012 GREAT RIVERS TRUMPETER WATCH

*By Lane Richter & Pat Leuders*

Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary along the Mississippi River in St. Charles County, Missouri, appears to be the single most important wintering site for the Interior Population of Trumpeter Swans with regular single-day counts of over 500 Trumpeters the past few years. Because of the importance of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers confluence area to migrating and wintering Trumpeter Swans, the St. Louis Audubon Society partnered with The Trumpeter Swan Society (TTSS), the Audubon Center at the Riverlands (ACR) Migratory Bird Sanctuary (RMBS), the U.S. Corps of Engineers River Project Office (USCE), and the Audubon Society of Missouri (ASM) to begin a citizen science monitoring program this winter called the Great Rivers Trumpeter Swan Watch. Trained volunteers were assigned to areas in the region and conducted bimonthly counts and observations of the wintering swans. They noted where swans were feeding, resting, the number of adults and juveniles, other waterfowl present in their area, and recorded codes on marked swans.



### Summary Notes:

**Species Associations** – The Mallard was the most common species using the same habitats as Trumpeter Swans this winter. Other species recorded during monitoring periods included Canada Geese, Greater White-fronted Geese, Snow Geese, Northern Pintails, Gadwalls, Ring-necked Ducks, Green-winged Teal, American Coots, and a Mute Swan.

**Trumpeter Swan Flock Composition** – Adults (729), cygnets (175), unknown (548).

**Primary Trumpeter Activities** – Resting on the wetlands (621 observations), flying (469), and feeding (379). Other activities were occasionally observed such as preening and swimming (33).

**Habitat Associations** – Data were collected on the habitats Trumpeters were found using in the area and included several types of agricultural fields, shallow wetlands, and open water habitats. Most Trumpeter Swan observations (696) occurred in shallow wetland habitats with aquatic vegetation, 9 observations occurred on open water, and 289 observations occurred in agricultural fields. When Trumpeter Swans were observed in agricultural fields, they were often found in plowed corn fields, which accounted for 220 of the observations. Two hundred Trumpeter Swans were observed in plowed fields versus only 89 in unplowed fields.

**Marked Trumpeter Swans** – During the project, we received information on four birds submitted to the USGS Bird Banding Lab. All four had yellow collars with black lettering, and they originated in Burnett, Sawyer, and Price Counties in Wisconsin. This spring, the birds will be 3, 4, 6, and 8 years old! In all, there were 11 birds sighted with collars, and 6 with codes were seen at a distance that could be read. The remaining reports are pending.

## SUCCESS!

Congratulations to a great team from Missouri for inaugurating the first Great Rivers Trumpeter Watch. TTSS recognizes the dedication and hard work that went into monitoring this winter and making this project a success. Plans are underway for the next winter season. This is a model that could be used in other important Trumpeter wintering areas.

Twenty-eight people gathered data on over 1450 Trumpeter Swan observations! They recorded 738 Trumpeter Swans on December 13; 287 on December 27; 309 on January 10; 129 on January 24; 12 on February 8; and 4 on February 21. By assessing locations up and down the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers in this confluence area, there are now data to assess patterns that should prove useful to managing Trumpeter Swans in the winter season.

### MANY THANKS - 2011/2012 SEASON



#### Primary Volunteers:

Connie Alwood, Dave Dean, Jean Favara, Chris Gerli, Dency Khan, Ed Leutwiler, Pat Lueders, Sara Rekart, Matt Schamberger, Julie Schnuck, Jean Siesener, John Solodar, and Marv Staloch.

#### Additional volunteers:

Bernie Favara, Chrissy McClaren, Matt Magoc, Erin Hilligoss-Volkman, and Valerie Whitney.

#### Program staff and advisors:

Charlie Deutsch (USCE), Jane Drake (ACR), Lane Richter (ACR), Ben McGuire (ACR), Dr. Patricia Hagen (ACR), and Peg Abbott (TTSS).

## UPCOMING EVENTS: BIRDING FESTIVALS FEATURING SWANS THIS SPRING

**April 21-22, 2012**

### **Celebrating the Annual Return of Trumpeter Swans to the Peace Country Grande Prairie, Alberta**

The 14th Annual Swan Festival kicks off at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 21, in Grande Prairie, Alberta, with keynote speaker Kris Kendell, followed by a wine-and-cheese social and silent auction. On Sunday, festival events will include *Wetland Wonders* tent, featuring face painting, a hot lunch, displays, and more. Events will take place at Saskatoon Island Provincial Park. Sunday, April 22 -- Guided Swan Tours leave the park every 1/2 hour starting at 12:30 p.m. The last tour leaves at 3:30 p.m. Other community activities will include Swans & Tea Tours for seniors' homes, Swan Stories at local libraries, and a coloring contest. *Sponsored by: The Friends of Saskatoon Island & Alberta Parks. For information call (780) 538-5350*

### **Tawas Point Birding Festival - Iosco County, Michigan**

Now in its 7th year, the Tawas Point Birding Festival (TPBF) has gained nationwide recognition as a top destination for observing spring bird migration. Wetlands provide for a big part of the birding treasures of Iosco County, including Tuttle Marsh, Clark's Marsh, and other sites. This year, top-notch birder, Jon Dunn, will entertain guests with a keynote presentation during the TPBF on May 17. Last year, over 250 registered participants enjoyed 4 days of guided birding, workshops, seminars, and birder camaraderie.

*Sponsored by the Michigan Audubon Society. For details contact Wendy Tatar, Program Coordinator, (517) 641 - 4277 or [wendy@michiganaudubon.org](mailto:wendy@michiganaudubon.org).*



**April 14-22, 2012**

### **Yukon's Celebration of Swans – Whitehorse**



Yukon's premiere birding festival, A Celebration of Swans, brings residents and visitors alike out to great swan viewing areas to welcome spring to the north, arriving on the wings of Trumpeter Swans. Over this 9-day period, visitors flock to open water making the

Celebration of Swans the largest birding event in Yukon. Swan Haven Interpretation Centre is open April 1-30. Approximately 10 percent of Yukoners make their way to Marsh Lake each year to see this spring spectacle, and every year visitors from afar discover this great celebration. Preparations are underway and include boardwalk construction and improvements to the Energy Yukon Swan Cam at M'Clintock Bay, so all can have a better view of the comings and goings out on the water.

*Sponsored by Environment Yukon of the Government of Yukon. Information: 867-667-8291.*

*[www.env.gov.yk.ca/wildlifebiodiversity/CelebrationofSwans.php](http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/wildlifebiodiversity/CelebrationofSwans.php).*

### **May 17-20, 2012 Festival of Birds - Detroit Lakes, Minnesota**

The 15th Annual Festival of Birds takes place in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. To kick off the festival Thursday, May 17, Carrol Henderson returns to a site where Trumpeter Swans were released in a reintroduction program 25 years ago - Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. Carrol's presentation will detail how the swans recovered from dangerously low numbers and now grace many Minnesota lakes! Workshops in 2012 feature Golden-winged Warblers, American Woodcock, Purple Martins, Trumpeter Swans, and Greater Prairie-Chickens. *For information contact the Detroit Lakes Chamber [dlchamber@VisitDetroitLakes.com](mailto:dlchamber@VisitDetroitLakes.com). 800.542.3992 Website: [www.visitdetroitlakes.com/things-to-do/events/festival-of-birds/](http://www.visitdetroitlakes.com/things-to-do/events/festival-of-birds/)*



### **PHOTO CREDITS:**

Pg. 2 Portrait, Bob Blohm. Pg. 6: Knik Arm by William Quirk, III.. All other photos are by Larry Jernigan, who resides in Heber Springs, Arkansas. Larry says of himself, "I have had an obsession with photography ever since I began taking pictures in undergraduate school 50 years ago." TTSS thanks him for sharing images for this issue of *Trumpetings* and for other TTSS communications. Find more of his Trumpeter images at: [www.larryjernigan.com](http://www.larryjernigan.com)

**May 17-20, 2012,**



# A SHORT HISTORY OF TRUMPETER SWANS AT VALENTINE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

*By Mark Lindvall, Refuge Manager, Valentine NWR*



The 72,000-acre Valentine National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) lies in the Sandhills of north-central Nebraska. The many wetlands found on the refuge and in the Sandhills provide habitat for Trumpeter Swans to nest and rear their broods. In addition, rivers both in and bordering the Sandhills are used as wintering areas. Every year since the refuge was established in 1935, managers have written an annual narrative reporting on activities and happenings on the refuge. The following history was gleaned from these annual reports.

In 1960, Trumpeter Swans from Red Rock Lakes NWR, Montana, were released at Lacreek NWR in southwestern South Dakota to start a restoration flock. Over time, these birds moved into the Sandhills and onto Valentine NWR. The first mention of Trumpeter Swans appears in the 1966 Annual Narrative. It is a bittersweet entry: "Evidence has shown that a few of the Trumpeter Swans from the La Creek Refuge have been pioneering into the Sandhills Area....This year, further evidence of this pioneering tendency was shown by observation of the Trumpeters on the Valentine Refuge." The next paragraph states, "In early December, 3 Trumpeter Swans were shot on and near Schoolhouse Lake, some 32 miles west of refuge headquarters.... He [The shooter] was fined \$705 in Cherry County Court."

Swans were observed on the refuge in 1967 and again in 1968. Then, in 1969, the first nest was recorded. The 1968 Narrative reads, "It was quite disappointing that no successful nests evolved, but maybe next year. . . ." And, the 1969 Narrative exclaims, "Success at last! A pair of Trumpeter Swan nested and produced two cygnets on the refuge this year." This pair returned in 1970 and raised four cygnets. The pen was shot in the fall of 1970, but the cob acquired a new mate and this pair nested on "21" Lake in 1970, raising four cygnets; 1971, two; 1972, zero (nest flooded); 1973, two; and

1974, two. The 1973 narrative laments, "Our faithful pair of Trumpeter Swans returned to "21" Lake to nest again this year. Last year they were unsuccessful, their nest flooded out by a June rainstorm. This year two cygnets hatched, but only one made it to flight stage."

"Trumpeter swans experienced a landmark in 1976 with both nesting pairs having a successful nest," states the 1976 Narrative. The pair on "21" Lake produced four young and were joined by a successful pair on North Marsh Lake, which hatched two. The landmark year was followed in 1977 by an unsuccessful nest on "21" Lake and in 1978 with four cygnets raised to flight stage. The period 1979-92 saw no Trumpeters successfully nesting on Valentine NWR. The narratives from these years show "unsuccessful – flooded, single adult lone immature observed, pair summered on "21" Lake but nesting activity did not occur, infrequent observation of a single bird, lone neck collared bird observed, and attempting to nest but not confirmed." Trumpeter Swans were observed every year, but evidence of nesting and production was not recorded.

The 14 years of unsuccessful nesting ended in 1993 when two cygnets were produced. The 1994-97 narratives are incomplete and provide no information on Trumpeter Swans. In 1998, a brief mention is made of two pairs of swans successfully nesting on Center and Middle Marsh Lakes. The 1999 and 2000 narratives are again incomplete. The 2001 narrative mentions an unsuccessful nest on Center Lake. The Center Lake pair produced three young in 2002. In 2003, there were three nesting pairs but only three cygnets were raised. In both 2004 and 2005, swans nested successfully on Willow and Center Lakes producing five cygnets each year. These same pairs were both unsuccessful in 2006. In April of 2007, eight pairs were noted on wetlands of which two went on to nest and had 11 young including a brood of 8 on East Long Lake. In 2008, the Center Lake pair again had two cygnets and in 2009, there were no successful nests. In 2010, a pair on Center Lake had a brood of two and a brood of five was seen on Watts Lake. In 2011, a refuge record was set in both the number of successful pairs and number of cygnets



produced with 11 cygnets from pairs on Center, Watts, East Long, and East Sweetwater Lakes.

Looking back, there have been periods of ups and downs in nesting success for the Valentine Trumpeters, but the trend has been from no swans, to one successful pair, then to sometimes two or three, and last year four successful nests. The High Plains Flock has also followed this pattern of gradual increase. There are still many suitable wetlands both on and off the refuge, which should allow the flock to continue to increase over time.

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*Assuring the Vitality and Welfare of Wild Trumpeter Swans*

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*Cover Photos by Larry Jernigan, Arkansas*

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**TRUMPETINGS Editors:** Peg Abbott, John Cornely, & David K. Weaver

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