Next year’s Duck Stamp will feature Trumpeter Swans!

Above: Joseph Hautman’s winning image of a pair of Trumpeter Swans.

Exciting news! Trumpeter Swans will be featured on the 2016-2017 Federal Duck Stamp!

Three Minnesota brothers made history in this year's Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest. Joseph Hautman, of Plymouth, Minnesota, is now a five-time winner of the Federal Duck Stamp contest. His acrylic painting of Trumpeter Swans won first place. His brothers, Bob and Jim, took second and third place respectively in the recent contest. Joseph Hautman is one of only two artists to have his art appear in five Duck Stamps.

The only other time Trumpeter Swans were featured on the Federal Duck Stamp was sixty-six years ago in 1950.

(continued on page 2)
Next year’s Duck Stamp will feature Trumpeter Swans (cont.)

Of 157 entries in this year’s competition, 10 entries made it to the final round of judging. Eligible species for this year’s Federal Duck Stamp Contest were the Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Gadwall, Mallard, and Trumpeter Swan.

The $25 stamps will be available for purchase next year in late June. Did you know your purchase of the stamp also allows you free entry into National Wildlife Refuges which charge an entry fee? Trumpeter Swans depend on habitat in nearly 60 National Wildlife Refuges at some point during the year. A list of these refuges can be downloaded from the home page of our website (www.trumpeterswansociety.org). Visit them all!

Federal Duck Stamps are formally known as the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp. Ninety-eight cents out of each dollar goes to buy breeding, migration, and wintering habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Sales from the stamp raises about $25 million in funds each year to conserve and protect wetland habitats in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

*The Trumpeter Swan Society offers Joseph Hautman and his brothers our heartiest congratulations!*

2015 North American Trumpeter Swan Survey update

*Counting North America’s Trumpeter Swans*

This summer, federal, state and provincial agencies and individuals have been involved in counting Trumpeter Swans for the 2015 North American Trumpeter Swan Survey.

This survey, done every five years, is coordinated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. TTSS has been involved as a cooperator in the survey since its beginnings in 1968.

The survey has helped wildlife agencies and organizations in the restoration and management of Trumpeter Swans since restoration efforts began more than 30 years ago.

Survey counts are done primarily by air, but there are on-the-ground counts in some areas as well. In 2010, the survey estimated more than 46,000 Trumpeter Swans in North America. How have swans been doing in the last five years? We’ll let you know! Results are expected in early 2016.

*TTSS helped fund Minnesota’s Trumpeter Swan count by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Three Rivers Park District. Minnesota is reporting a 2015 count of 17,000 Trumpeter Swans. Photo by Jim Goodland*
Nine cygnets released in Oregon

**Bringing back Oregon’s Trumpeter Swans**

On a cold, crisp Saturday morning in late September, nine young Trumpeter Swans were freed from captivity into the wild marshes of Summer Lake Wildlife Management Area. They joined the growing wild flock of swans there.

Since 2009, a total of 94 swans have been released at Summer Lake which has ideal nesting and wintering habitat for Trumpeter Swans.

Oregon lost most of its Trumpeter Swans by the late 1800s. They were last seen in the state in the 1920s. Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in eastern Oregon has supported a small flock of Trumpeter Swans for over 50 years due to restoration efforts in the 1940s and 1950s. Challenges remain. Only one swan pair nested at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge this past summer.

The Oregon Restoration Project began in 2009 to restore a viable breeding population of Trumpeter Swans to eastern Oregon. It is a partnership between The Trumpeter Swan Society, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Plans are to continue releases at Summer Lake until there are at least 15 wild breeding pairs in Oregon.

Above: Newly released cygnets explore their new home at Summer Lake, Oregon.

Right, top: Cygnets came from Alaska, Washington, and Wyoming and have Rocky Mountain Population DNA.

Right, bottom: Summer Lake Wildlife Management Area has ideal nesting and wintering habitat for Trumpeter Swans.

Photos by Martin St. Louis, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
Partnerships continue in Washington and British Columbia

*Highest number of swan deaths in Pacific Northwest region from lead and power lines*

The Pacific Northwest remains an area of high priority for TTSS. In late September, we received an interim report from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: “2014-15 Surveillance and Collection of Sick and Dead Swans in NW Washington and SW BC.”

This project is a partnership between the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Puget Sound Energy, and The Trumpeter Swan Society.

Through partnership funding by Puget Sound Energy and TTSS, WDFW hired additional staff in 2014-2015 to systematically survey night roost sites and agricultural use areas for swan mortalities from November through March. The Judson Lake exclusion area, which had been a significant site of past lead-related deaths, was also maintained.

**It was through swan mortality surveillance efforts that the first known cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) were found in wild ducks in North America.** Fortunately, no HPAI was detected in swans submitted for analysis at the U.S. Geological Survey’s Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin.

Throughout 2014-2015, WDFW also operated a toll-free reporting line for citizens to report mortalities during the same period. A total of 235 Trumpeter Swan mortalities were recovered in northern Puget Sound (Washington) and the Sumas Prairie (British Columbia), of which 50 were suspected to be from lead poisoning (see Table 1). Mortality determinations were based on analysis by Laurie Wilson from the Canadian Wildlife Service in Delta, British Columbia.

This interim report would not be possible without our partners in this project and to you, our donors, who support our efforts to strengthen and expand our Pacific Coast Population programs.

**Table 1. Trumpeter Swan mortalities in NW Washington and SW British Columbia during the fall and winter of 2014-15.**

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Powerline</th>
<th>Other trauma</th>
<th>Aspergillosis</th>
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<td>23</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sumas</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Trumpetings Vol. XXV  No. 3  December 2015*
Ontario swans face winter habitat threat

TTSS writes letter to safeguard Ontario wintering swan habitat

In late September, at the request of the Ontario Trumpeter Swan Restoration Group, TTSS wrote to Ontario's Burlington City Council and mayor. We expressed our concern that a proposed plan for expanding the marina at LaSalle Park and the building of a permanent break wall could jeopardize the survival of the Trumpeter Swans wintering in LaSalle Park.

This flock represents a significant portion of Ontario's recovering Trumpeter Swan flock. The loss of this flock could hamper the chances of the Ontario Trumpeter Swan flock's recovery to a wild, self-sustaining part of the Interior Population.

Trumpeter Swans tend to "imprint" on their wintering sites and become very loyal to them. Excessive disturbance and loss of foraging habitat at traditional wintering sites could result in significant population declines, a pattern we have observed elsewhere in their range.

Idaho swans saved by buried power line project

TTSS donates $4000 to help bury power lines at Texas Slough, Idaho

Texas Slough is a tributary of the Henry's Fork of the Snake River in Idaho. Wintering Trumpeter Swans are attracted to Texas Slough because the spring-fed slough remains open during the winter and is filled with nutritious sago pond weed. The increasing population of Trumpeter Swans have made Texas Slough a swan "hotspot" each winter.

Over the past several years, an increasing number of swans were colliding with overhead power lines. Significant efforts were made by Fall River Electric Cooperative to install bird "diverters" on the lines.

However, at times in the Texas Slough area a thick fog forms, obscuring the lines and the diverters. Fall River Electric Cooperative members Tim and Wendy Brockish led an effort along with The Trumpeter Swan Society, Teton Regional Land Trust, Friends of Camas National Wildlife Refuge, other organizations, and concerned Fall River Electric members to provide assistance with the "Texas Slough Swan Safe Power Line Project." The effort raised the more than $100,000 needed to bury the power line.
Trumpeter Watch needs your help

Do you see Trumpeter Swans in the winter? Report them to Trumpeter Watch!

Join our citizen science program! You can help track key migration stops and wintering areas of Trumpeters across North America. Last winter interesting sightings were received from many locations including Colorado, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, and even the Yukon. Report your observations on our Trumpeter Watch form, which can be easily downloaded from our website home page and emailed to trumpeterwatch@trumpeterswansociety.org.

Help us record history as it happens as Trumpeters move into new areas. Thank you!

Yukon has a new nesting site

Left: A Trumpeter Swan family lounges in the magnificent early fall setting of the Yukon Wildlife Preserve on 31 August 2015. Photo by Jake Paleczny

Nesting wild Trumpeters are a new attraction at the Yukon Wildlife Preserve. This 700-acre non-profit facility is 30 kilometers northwest of Whitehorse, Yukon and is a favorite of photographers and visitors.

The Preserve boasts a fabulous wetland which has become a well-known local hotspot for waterfowl and other waterbirds. In recent years there have been occasional Trumpeter Swans dropping in to visit during spring and fall migration.

Spring 2015 was a landmark season as a pair of Trumpeters settled in, built a nest, and successfully raised several cygnets, all in plain view of the many visitors. Even when the cygnets were flying and the wetland began to freeze up in late September, the family kept returning until the open water froze up entirely in early November. With any luck this pair will return to nest in future years and delight and educate visitors to the Preserve.

Ordering holiday gifts online? You can help swans too

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to TTSS. Bookmark Trumpeter Swan Society at AmazonSmile and support us every time you shop.

Here’s a gift idea! Jim King’s Attending Alaska’s Birds features his exciting adventures in the Alaska wilderness, the early history of TTSS, and even stories of the first swan surveys in North America.
Welcome new 2015 members; Memorials & Tributes

United States
California: Desert Christian Academy
Kansas: Carol Morgan
Michigan: Donald Fleming
       Colleen Giddings
       Mary Hefferan
       Larry Letsch
       Linda Wood
Minnesota: Ray Colby
          Diane Hubbard
          Louise Ogden
          Robert Teed
Montana: Roger Norgaard
Nebraska: Heather Johnson
New York: Brianna Grant
Tennessee: Brenda Flowers

Memorials and Tribute:
For: Alan Arthur Brubaker
     Jean Gleason
     Christopher Hamilton
From: Ellen Brubaker & Irene Billa
      Harmony Hills Association, Inc.
      Betty Hutton

Save the Date! Join us in November, 2016, for TTSS’ 24th Swan Conference on Vancouver Island, BC!

I support Trumpeter Swan conservation.
Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift (US).

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[ ] $500    [ ] $1000

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City__________________  State______   Zip_________
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Email_________________________________________

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Gift of honor or remembrance

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Area of Greatest Need $________
Gift of honor or remembrance $________
TOTAL $________

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[ ] Credit Card   ___ Visa   ___ MC   ___ Discover   ___ AmEx

Card #_________________________________________
Card Expiration date ______/______   Security Code_________
Name on Card _______________________________________
Signature_________________________________________

OR donate securely online at
www.trumpeterswansociety.org

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

Above: A new family of Trumpeter Swans takes flight at Lake Camelot near the Plymouth, Minnesota headquarters of TTSS.

Right: Five cygnets explore this small lake set like a jewel in a neighborhood of family homes. Photos by Ray Colby

Save the Date! Join us in November, 2016, for TTSS’ 24th Swan Conference on Vancouver Island, BC!
Stay fully up to date, with our FREE ENEWS. Sign up online!

*Do you shop online?*

- Use [AmazonSmile](http://www.amazon.com/gp/help/customer/display.html?nodeId=201768) for your Amazon holiday purchases. Choose TTSS.
- Visit TTSS's website [gift shop](http://www.trumpeterswansociety.org/gifts.html)

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For all you do for Trumpeter Swans, thank you.

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

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*New member Ray Colby documented the early flights (left) and explorations (right) of this year’s cygnets at Lake Camelot, Minnesota.*

**TRUMPETINGS EDITORS**

John Cornely, Gary Ivey, Margaret Smith

Go to [www.trumpeterswansociety.org](http://www.trumpeterswansociety.org) for a listing of the Board of Directors and Staff.