



# TRUMPETINGS

*Voice of the Trumpeter Swan Society*

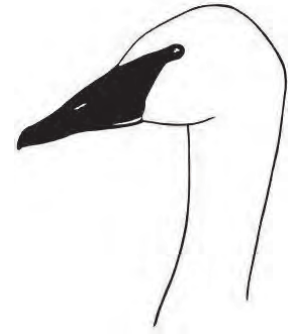
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Since 1968: Assuring the vitality and welfare of wild Trumpeter Swans

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## Your update from Oregon... baby swans... far flung travels!



(c) Michelle Kellogg and Sunriver Nature Center

Thanks to you, three cygnets that hatched this summer at Sunriver Nature Center will soon be heading to the Zoo Idaho winter home you made possible.

The cygnets hatched in late June to “Val and Gus” our Sunriver Nature Center breeding pair.

These young swans will be released into the Oregon wild in 2024!

This winter the young swans will have minimal human contact on the remote Zoo Idaho 3.5 acre wetland. This prepares them for life in the wild.

They will join their sibling that hatched last summer that already arrived at this new winter home. All these swans will be released into the wild thanks to you!

Photo by Michelle Kellogg and Sunriver Nature Center



Thank you for tracking swans that received GPS/GSM tracking collars this winter at Oregon’s Summer Lake Wildlife Area. Green and orange markers show where 4 swans with GPS/GSM collars are as of September 13, 2023. Most swans with GPS collars are in Alberta.

However, one swan, **female @13 is in northern British Columbia, near Yukon and Northwest Territories.** (red arrow, above)

Right: Female swan @13 is at Maxhamish Lake Provincial Park and Protected Area. This is a 67,990-acre provincial park in British Columbia, Canada.



Thanks to you, recent movements of female swan @13 in British Columbia are being tracked.

## You are bringing swans to Oregon - a new family!

*Five years ago, the Trumpeter Swan Society purchased two swans for the Oregon Restoration Project. The captive swan pair has been at Juniper Preserve/Pronghorn Club and Resort in Bend, Oregon. **The pair successfully nested this spring and hatched their first brood!** The surviving cygnets will be released into the Oregon wild in 2024 as yearlings. Thank you for your support of the Oregon Restoration Project.*



**“The best part of having the swan family is being proud to contribute to the Oregon Restoration Project and doing our part to help rebuild wild trumpeter swan populations.**

**It has been fantastic having something to bring people together and give a sense of pride to the community.”**

*An interview with David Freitag, Director of Agronomy, Juniper Preserve, Bend, Oregon*

### **Tell me about Juniper Preserve which is home to this trumpeter swan pair**

Juniper Preserve is one square mile, or 640 acres. The community contains a resort with two golf courses (Pronghorn Club). We have over 100 existing homes with about 1/2 being year-round residents.

### **Where do the swans live?**

The swans stay on Fazio Lake which has a surface size of two acres. The lake contains 12-15 million gallons of water and is up to 15 feet deep. The swans nest on the island which gives them some security from predators.

### **What do the residents and visitors think about the swan pair?**

The swan pair has always been very popular with a lot of interest within the community and from visitors.

### **What do they think about the cygnets that hatched this summer?**

The cygnets have made the swans even more popular. A lot of residents and guests alike love seeing the swan family and hearing the story of what the program is trying to accomplish. People have definitely taken a vested interest in learning more and protecting the cygnets and parents.

### **What are the challenges for you and the swan family with this first brood?**

The biggest challenge with the first brood has been almost too much attention. Most people are very interested and want to get a closer look.

The parents (Olivia Newton Swan and Swan Travolta) are obviously very protective of their cygnets (Elton Swan and Obi-Swan Kenobi). Signage, education, and monitoring have been ramped up given the extra



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attention. Their home (Event Island) is an event space and there have been some weddings on the island. The swans, especially the swan dad Swan Travolta, were very leery of these events. We are already planning for next year and solutions to create more privacy for the swans and hopefully another brood.

### **How does your community feel about being part of the Oregon Restoration Project and contributing to the return of wild trumpeters to the state?**

We are very proud to be a part of the Oregon Restoration Project. And particularly now that we have finally seen success in the arrival of this year's cygnets after having adult swans for years. We hope this is just the beginning of many years of being able to contribute to rebuilding wild trumpeters in Oregon.

### **How do you care for the swans during the year?**

Throughout the year we ensure the swans have enough food to supplement what they are able to feed on from our Fazio Lake. We feed a mix of cracked corn and poultry feed formulated for egg health. The cygnets seem to enjoy the supplemental food just as much as the adults do. We monitor our swans daily throughout the year, ensuring they are safe and uninjured. In the winter, this means maintaining ice free water for their safety and security.

### **What are the things your community like best about having this new swan family?**

The best part of having the swan family is being proud to contribute to the Oregon Restoration Project and doing our part to help rebuild wild trumpeter swan populations. It has been fantastic having something to bring people together and give a sense of pride to the community.



“Olivia Newton Swan and Swan Travolta” a year after their arrival at Juniper Preserve. Thank you for your support of the Oregon Restoration Project and this swan pair.



“We hope this is just the beginning of many years of being able to contribute to rebuilding wild trumpeters in Oregon.”

Above: It is late September and the cygnets will soon be taken to their winter home at Zoo Idaho. Photo by Gary Ivey  
Page 2: The new swan family heads toward its nesting site on Event Island. Photo courtesy of Juniper Preserve

## Thank you for your support of Trumpeter Watch

You know Trumpeter Watch is important for tracking where swans are during the year. Each report also shares a personal story of seeing a swan in a certain location.

For some people, it is their first time seeing a trumpeter swan. For others, it is the thrilling memory of a moment in time.

Reports are shared with the appropriate state or provincial people tracking swans. It is because of your support of Trumpeter Watch that states and provinces are able to get this important information.

### Seeing a trumpeter swan for the first time

Manitoba: We were fishing in a remote area of Manitoba. One of our friends from Ontario was with us.

**I heard a honk, and the other two in the boat commented how it must be the trucks on the highway (which is not close). Then the noise got louder and flew just over the water to the side of us and landed on the shore. It was two Trumpeter Swans!**

**Visiting from Texas, I had no idea what birds they were, but our Ontario friend identified them for us.** I was enamored and watched them at the shore, fly across the lake, and just make their happy honking-trumpet noises while they stayed near us, but not too close. **What a sight and an enjoyment to watch!**

When I returned to my mother-in-law, who had just added a bird app which checked off the birds by their calls, I told her about the Trumpeter Swans and tried to add them into her count. This is when I realized my sighting may be out of the ordinary, when the app wouldn't allow us to add them because it was out of their typical range.

I have been thinking of this for months, and glad I came across your site as I thought more about the amazing Trumpeter Swans.



“Fishing for fun and heard some strange trucks.” Kay H.

### A thrilling memory of a moment in time

Minnesota: Traveling by canoe, I spotted a pair of trumpeters on Jack Lake in the Boundary Waters of Northern Minnesota. **The sight of the pair was stunning. I was so taken back by their size and beauty. The memory is so vivid I wanted to share it with you.**

Kristin F.

## The importance of sharing Trumpeter Watch reports with state and provincial representatives

Ohio: Response from Laura Kearns after receiving Caroline Savage’s report and photos of a swan family. “Thank you. Yes, we had our first breeding activity out there last year— good to have confirmation again.”

Michigan: Response from David Wolfson, lead Midwest GPS researcher after receiving Tonia Braden’s recent report of MI GPS swan 9J. “Thank you. The last time it had active locations was December 2021.”

Manitoba: Response from Tim Poole after receiving Michelle Porter’s report and photos. “That’s possibly the largest total I have seen from Hecla. Thanks for passing it on!”

## Leaving a legacy- a future with trumpeter swans

I made a decision recently to bequeath a portion of my estate to the Trumpeter Swan Society.

My twin sister Laurie Degernes is a Board Member of the Trumpeter Swan Society. She suggested that while there are a lot of great charitable organizations out there to leave money to, even a modest donation to an organization like the Trumpeter Swan Society could make a huge difference.

I have had a lifelong love for swans as they are common in my area of Alaska. I can see them 12 months of the year.

When trumpeters are flying through my valley and calling, I will stop in my tracks to watch and listen to them. I frequently look for them in nearby Kenai Lake during the winter when the lake is still open – there is a small population of trumpeters who overwinter in the upper Kenai River watershed.

I can't imagine my world without trumpeter swans in it!  
Chris Degernes

*A note to you from Jeff Nelson, President of the Board of Directors:* The ongoing recovery of trumpeter swans is a cause for celebration. A gift in your will or estate plan to the Trumpeter Swan Society will help ensure that your conservation efforts will continue to grow. Wild trumpeter swans and their wetland habitats will remain for generations to come with gifts like those made by Chris Degernes and others looking to leave a lasting impact.

**With a gift in your will you can support a cause that has been important in your life**



**“I can't imagine my world without trumpeter swans in it!”**

Chris Degernes is leaving an incredible legacy for trumpeter swans... and you can too.





## New opportunities to learn about swans and wetlands



**New! Webinars about swans and wetlands thanks to you!**

**Subscribe to Enews for announcements to register for webinars.**

Registration will be online. Webinars will be recorded.



**The new *Nature Explorers* coloring and activity book for grades Kindergarten-2 is finished, thanks to you!** This TTSS book has 16 pages of fun activities.

**It was designed for home and classroom use and can be downloaded today!** Go to the website, then Swan Information> Swan Activity Books

## New! Go to the 'blue ribbon' to learn about swans!



[www.youtube.com/@TrumpeterSwanSociety](http://www.youtube.com/@TrumpeterSwanSociety)



[www.instagram.com/trumpeterswansociety](http://www.instagram.com/trumpeterswansociety)



**Check out our new YouTube Channel! Look for the red video icon in the blue ribbon on the footer on our website.** There are 10 playlists of different kinds of swan behavior! Subscribe or bookmark the page.



**You don't need an Instagram account to learn about swans and wetlands! Look for the multi-colored camera icon in the blue ribbon on the footer on our website.** Bookmark the page to learn more about swans!

## Education programs need your help

You know how important it is to protect trumpeter swans and wetland habitat that is their home.

One of the most effective ways for a person to want to protect swans and their home habitat is to learn about swans and the importance of wetlands.

### Will you help fund one education program about swans and their wetland home?

Your gift today will help fund one a public education program (and one you can learn from too!).

Will you give a gift to fund an Instagram post, YouTube swan video or webinar?

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 funds one Instagram post or YouTube video about trumpeter swans  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 funds two Instagram posts or YouTube videos about trumpeter swans  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 funds four Instagram posts or YouTube videos about trumpeter swans  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$250 funds one webinar about trumpeter swans  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$500 funds two webinars about trumpeter swans

*Mail a check or donate securely online: [TrumpeterSwanSociety.org](http://TrumpeterSwanSociety.org) > How to Help > Education*

**Yes!**

*I want to support education programs about trumpeter swans*

### 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)*

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](http://www.trumpeterswansociety.org),  
How to Help > Education

### My Gift for education programs about trumpeter

**swans** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] 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 \_\_\_\_\_

*If funds raised exceed the amount needed, your gift will be used where it is needed most.*



The Trumpeter Swan Society  
12615 Rockford Road  
Plymouth, MN 55441-1248

Web: [www.trumpeterswansociety.org](http://www.trumpeterswansociety.org)

Email: [ttss@trumpeterswansociety.org](mailto:ttss@trumpeterswansociety.org)

Make a gift to help swans at  
“How to Help”  
[www.TrumpeterSwanSociety.org](http://www.TrumpeterSwanSociety.org)

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## Become a monthly donor for education programs!

### Monthly Donation Authorization Form:

**Yes, I would like be a monthly donor for education programs**

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.

Platinum  
Transparency  
2023

Candid.

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

**TRUMPETINGS EDITORS**

Gary Ivey, Jeffrey Nelson, Margaret Smith

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