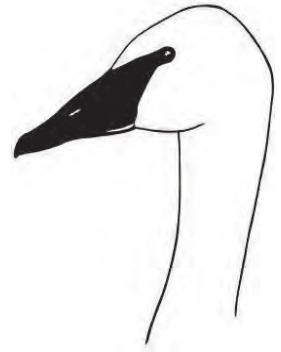




TRUMPETINGS

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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Outgoing Executive Director, John Cornely, thanks outgoing President, Gary Ivey, for his service. Photo by Dave Weaver.

CHANGES IN THE FLOCK *New leadership at TTSS*

The Trumpeter Swan Society witnessed the transfer of not one, but two batons at our conference board meeting in Easton, Maryland, in February. Margaret Smith was welcomed as the new Executive Director of TTSS, succeeding John Cornely, and Carey Smith was elected Board President to replace outgoing President Gary Ivey.

We are delighted to welcome Margaret and Carey to their new positions and are happy that both Gary and John will stay involved in the Society as well. Gary finished his term as President, but will remain on the board of directors. At the close of 2013, John Cornely resigned as Executive Director, but will continue to lend his expertise to our work with flyways and agencies as TTSS's new volunteer Senior Conservation Advisor.

Margaret Smith takes reins as third Executive Director of The Trumpeter Swan Society

After sorting through more than 60 applications and conducting a series of interviews, we selected Margaret Smith of River Falls, Wisconsin, as our new Executive Director. Margaret comes to us with a degree in biology and an MBA from the University of Michigan. As the former Executive Director of the Great River Road Visitor & Learning Center in Prescott, Wisconsin, she worked with many partners including the National Park Service, various departments of natural resources, local municipalities, and regional tourism and nonprofit organizations. We are excited to welcome Margaret to our organization and look forward to benefiting from her many talents.

Board of Directors elects Carey Smith, President

Carey Smith's many years of waterfowl experience will make him an excellent President for TTSS. He began his career as a Fish and Wildlife Service pilot-biologist, when he flew waterfowl surveys "from the Yukon to the Yucatan." Carey became the regional refuge biologist for the Service's Region 1 and had oversight of biological programs on more than 100 National Wildlife Refuges in seven western states. He served as the first coordinator for the Pacific Coast Joint Venture from 1991 – 2012, where he led international partner efforts to conserve hundreds of thousands of acres of wetlands and associated uplands from Alaska, along the Pacific coast, and on the Hawaiian Islands. Carey holds a graduate degree in wildlife biology. We are pleased to have Carey guiding our board and the conservation activities of The Trumpeter Swan Society.



FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Carey Smith

As the newly elected President of The Trumpeter Swan Society, it is a privilege to be working toward the betterment of such a magnificent species with such a well-respected board and talented staff.

Our first major action this year will be the update of our 5-year strategic plan. We received a generous grant to help us determine our programmatic priorities and the actions necessary to achieve them. Among the many priorities to be sorted out are outreach programs, on-the-ground swan stewardship, habitat protection, and advocacy for swans among state, provincial, and federal agencies.

Our board has traditionally been made up of swan biologists and wildlife administrators. We have identified the need to attract folks with more diversified backgrounds. To that end, we have brought on new members with corporate and legal experience. Other areas where we could use board-level expertise are accounting and outreach.

Since 1968, this society has been the driving force bringing Trumpeters back from the brink of extinction. There is still much to be done toward securing the future of our swans, but it is all contingent upon the support of our membership.

-Carey Smith

TTSS ENSURES FEDERAL AGENCIES CONSIDER TRUMPETER SWAN CONSERVATION

John Cornely assumes liaison role for the Society

Former Executive Director John Cornely is still working for Trumpeters in his new volunteer staff role as Senior Conservation Advisor. A significant part of his new position is to serve as TTSS liaison with government agencies and conservation organizations.

John recently attended the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference representing TTSS, as he has for a number of years. He dropped in on meetings of all four Flyway Councils (Pacific, Central, Mississippi, and Atlantic) representing the interests of swan conservation. He also gave an annual update on Trumpeter Swan issues at the National Flyway Council meeting. The Flyway Councils are formal bodies representing the provincial and state agencies in cooperative migratory bird management with the Canadian Wildlife Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service. The two federal agencies are responsible for conservation of migratory birds through international migratory bird treaties. TTSS is active in swan committees in all four flyways to advocate for swan conservation. While attending the conference, John also met informally with a number of other conservation groups including the National Wildlife Refuge Association, Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Wildlife Management Institute, Defenders of Wildlife, Wildlife Forever, Ducks Unlimited, and other groups and individuals.

In addition to his liaison role, John will continue to advise the Society board of directors and staff on a wide variety of swan issues and work on special projects. He remains TTSS point person on lead poisoning and “getting the lead out.” He also will lead our Trumpeter Watch citizen science project and is on the editing team for publishing proceedings from TTSS conferences and the recently concluded 5th International Swan Symposium. The bottom line is that it is too early for Dr. Cornely’s “swan song!”



GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Margaret Smith

For more than 45 years, The Trumpeter Swan Society has worked tirelessly and with great success to be part of virtually every restoration program and significant management decision across the country affecting swans. Through your generous and continuing support, the board and staff have been continentwide leaders in swan reintroductions and habitat restoration, bringing the Trumpeter Swan from the brink of extinction to the ever growing success story it is today.

It is an honor and a privilege to be named Executive Director of The Trumpeter Swan Society. Former Executive Director John Cornely leaves very large shoes to fill. We are very fortunate to have him continue as our Senior Conservation Advisor. I look forward to working with the board of directors and staff, the Swan Steward groups and with you, our generous supporters, as TTSS continues its mission of assuring the vitality and welfare of wild Trumpeter Swans.

TTSS's 2010-2014 Strategic Plan will end this year. This summer, thanks to a generous grant, we will be developing a new multiyear strategic plan to guide our swan protection efforts and grow our organizational capacity as the national leader and advocate for wild Trumpeter Swans. We have an exceptional board with phenomenal skills in wildlife biology, organizational management and leadership, and relationship building. Most of all, we are so lucky to have you as supporters -- it has been the generosity of you and countless others like you over the past 45 years that has made the comeback of the Trumpeter Swan a reality! Thank you!

-Margaret Smith

BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

The Trumpeter Swan Society extends its deep gratitude to outgoing board members Ron Andrews and Rob Morgan, who have tirelessly served the board and so generously shared their extensive experiences and many talents. Both Ron and Rob ended their volunteer board terms at the February board meeting in Easton, Maryland. Ron will continue to be involved with TTSS through the creation of a North America's Trumpeter Swan information/education/outreach activities booklet for use in schools.

The Board of Directors elected new officers at the February meeting:
Carey Smith, President
Dave Hoffman, Vice President
Ruth Shea, Treasurer.
Gary Ivey is Past President.



TTSS Board Members, Associates, and participants from around the globe enjoy birding during the February conference field trip. (Front, left to right) Larry Gillette, Mike Smith, Martha Jordan, Dave Hoffman, Gary Ivey. Photo by Margaret Smith.

TTSS HOSTS 23RD CONFERENCE WITH 5TH INTERNATIONAL SWAN SYMPOSIUM



Swan biologists and enthusiasts from 16 countries participated in the 5th International Swan Symposium 3-6 February in Easton, Maryland, which was hosted by The Trumpeter Swan Society and the International Swan Specialist Group. About 100 participants registered to attend the 4-day conference to discuss swan biology, ecology, and management strategies to further swan conservation efforts worldwide.

A wide range of topics, from population status information to breeding biology and migration, and an assessment of issues that threaten the eight recognized species of swans throughout the world, comprised the formal agenda. A special workshop on avian interactions with power lines focused on methods to minimize swan/power line collisions and highlighted the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee's efforts to address these impacts. Another workshop dealt with developing better methods of estimating swan populations.



Other highlights included a local field trip sponsored by Waterfowl Chesapeake and Waterfowl Festival to observe Tundra Swans and other waterfowl wintering on the Eastern Shore coupled with a stop at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge and Visitor Center. Refuge staff gave a presentation on the unique wetland ecosystem that supports the diverse flora and fauna of the Chesapeake Bay.



The banquet Wednesday night featured a presentation by well-known author and naturalist Tom Horton and award-winning photographer David Harp, who spoke on the Bay's bounty and beauty and underscored future challenges of living on the edge between land and water. A special lifetime membership award was presented to Easton resident Don Cochran (left), who is the one living founder of The Trumpeter Swan Society, established in 1968. Proceeds from the evening's successful silent auction will help to support the Society's mission to ensure the welfare of Trumpeter Swans in North America.

President Gary Ivey proclaimed the conference an overwhelming success, and stated that "the collaborative efforts to exchange vital information among swan researchers and managers at this conference will significantly advance our understanding and conservation of swans worldwide."

Photos: (Left) Top: *Conference participants at the Tidewater Inn.* Photo by Margaret Smith.

Middle: (Left) *Field trip participants saw many flocks of Tundra Swans.* Photo by Dave Weaver.

(Right) *Harry Lumsden enjoys the field trip.* Photo by Margaret Smith.

Lower: *Founding member Don Cochran receives Lifetime Membership Award from John Cornely and Gary Ivey.* Photo by Dave Weaver.

The Trumpeter Swan Society would like to extend special thanks to Eileen Rees with the Wetlands International/IUCN SSC Swan Specialist Group for leading the program committee and coordinating so many of the international logistics.



Photos: (Above): *Eileen Rees, IUCN Swan Specialist Group and John Cornely.*
 (Right) *Sixteen countries were represented at the conference. Dima Boiko, Latvia; Peter Glazov, Russia; Diana Solovyova, Russia; Julius Morkūnas, Lithuania; Sibyl Cochran, US; Nico Stenschke, Germany.*
 Photos by Dave Weaver.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 23RD TRUMPETER SWAN SOCIETY CONFERENCE SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Atlantic Flyway Council | Naturalist Journeys |
| Avian Power Line Interaction Committee | Jeff Nelson |
| Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge | Pabst Brewing Company |
| Center for Biological Diversity | Pacific Coast Joint Venture |
| Central Flyway Council | Pacific Flyway Council |
| John Cornely | Patuxent Research Refuge |
| Cupcake Vineyards | Eileen Rees |
| Ducks Unlimited, Inc. | Regal Swan Foundation |
| Ducks Unlimited Canada | Talbot Bird Club |
| Larry Gillette | Trumpeter Swan Antiques |
| Steve Holmer | UK Swan Studies Group |
| Dr. Jerome Katchin Waterfowl Foundation | USDA Wildlife Research Center |
| Long Point Waterfowl | USDA Wildlife Services |
| Maryland Department of Natural Resources | Waterfowl Chesapeake |
| Maryland Ornithological Society | Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust |
| Mississippi Flyway Council | Zango Creative |

CONCERNED ABOUT TRUMPETER SWAN POWER LINE DEATHS?

Avian Collision Manuals Available



*Mel Walters discusses placement of diverters on power lines.
Photo by Dave Weaver.*

Power lines cause significant mortality for Trumpeter Swans, which require a lot of space for takeoff and landing. Wyoming Game & Fish reports that at least 40 percent of documented swan mortalities are from collisions, with similar figures across the species' range. Collisions can be significantly reduced on existing lines through the use of bird diverters (devices attached to power lines that make them more visible) and through careful placement of new lines.

Participants at the 23rd Trumpeter Swan Society Conference/5th International Swan Symposium were fortunate to have the opportunity to attend a workshop led by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) on avian interactions with power lines and associated infrastructure, including methods to minimize swan/power line collisions. (APLIC was also a generous \$5,000 sponsor of our conference.)

APLIC was formed in 1989 to address Whooping Crane collisions with power lines and has expanded to address a variety of avian/power line interactions including electrocutions, collisions, and nests. APLIC developed the national Avian Protection Plan (APP) Guidelines in conjunction with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. They host training courses throughout the US and they fund research related to avian/power line interactions and conservation.

APLIC has developed guidance documents identifying causes and minimization methods for avian electrocutions and collisions. Conference workshop participants received copies of APLIC's *Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines* and *Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines*. These documents are very comprehensive and will be essential for any people who are concerned about swan collisions in their communities and regions, and are looking for information about laws protecting avian species, applicable permits, and guidelines about how to work with utilities to minimize collision risk.

If you were unable to attend the conference, you can still order copies of the manuals *Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines* and *Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines* (\$49 each). A CD with both manuals is available for \$20. If interested in purchasing in either the hard copy or CD format, contact Rick Loughery at rloughery@eei.org. For more information about APLIC, visit their website at www.aplic.org.

JOIN US IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 2016

Early planning has already begun for the 24th Trumpeter Swan Society Conference! It will be held in November 2016 on Vancouver Island in Duncan, British Columbia.

We will partner with the Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society and the conference will coincide with their annual WildWings festival, which celebrates the return of wintering Trumpeter Swans to the area.

We look forward to another exciting conference and the chance to meet new swan enthusiasts, catch up with old friends, discuss swan research and issues, and observe Trumpeter Swans on beautiful Vancouver Island.

TTSS MEMBERS' TRIP TO PATAGONIA - A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE

by John Cornely



Black-necked Swan family in Torres del Paine NP.
Photo by Dave Weaver.

In early December, former Executive Director John Cornely hosted a tour of southern Chile for the inaugural TTSS travel experience. Over 130 bird species were observed with the expert assistance of local guide extraordinaire Ricardo Matus, a waterfowl research biologist who lives in Punta Arenas. The tour began in Puerto Montt. On the ferry to Chiloe Island, we got our first look at Black-necked Swans. December is late spring in the southern hemisphere, so cygnets, goslings, and ducklings were being carefully watched by their parents. We saw two species of penguins in a colony just off the shore of Chiloe and two more species later in the trip.

For the next couple of days, we explored the temperate rainforest near the crest of the Andes in Puyehue National Park and observed the unique species of birds of the area. The group walked in the footsteps of Charles Darwin on the island of Tierra del Fuego and marveled at the landscape and wildlife of the southernmost area of the Americas. We viewed Coscoroba Swans for the first time near the town of Porvenir. Throughout our marathon travels, we met friendly, accommodating Chileans and experienced excellent food. Because the entire length of the country is coastline, fresh seafood is available everywhere. On the windy Patagonian Steppe, we saw the unique Guanacos (large, wild native relatives of camels and llamas) and large flightless birds, Rheas. We spent a night on the second largest estancia in Chile, where many thousands of sheep and a few thousand cattle grazed. Dinner was lamb roasted over an open wood fire accompanied by a fine pinot noir from the estancia owners' own winery. Finally, we experienced the wildlife and breathtaking views of Torres del Paine National Park, one of the most spectacular landscapes in the world.

Almost all of the wildlife species observed were unique to North American travelers. We could not have had a better guide than Ricardo, who not only knows the wildlife and plants and their ecology, but the history and geography of his home territory as well. Our tour was arranged by TTSS partner and former staff member, Peg Abbott through her company, Naturalist Journeys. We hope this was the first of many outstanding tours hosted by the Society to see the swans of the world. Join us for our next swan-viewing adventure!

TTSS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Since our last issue, people from 16 countries, 16 states, the District of Columbia, and 2 provinces have joined our flock!

AUSTRALIA: *Queensland*: Jon Coleman – Shaizzler Park

CANADA: *British Columbia*: Andre Breault – Delta; Terry Brown – Terrace; *Ontario*: Deborah Lumsden – Aurora; Sara Handrigan – Brockville; Vernon Thomas – Guelph; Katelyn Weaver – London; Diana Lumsden – Mt. Albert; Jerome Katchin – Port Rowan

CHINA: Lizhi Zhou – Hefei

DENMARK: Pelle Andersen-Harild – Jaegerspris; Bjarke Laubek – Saebj

ESTONIA: Andres Kuresoo, Leho Luigujoe – Tartu

GERMANY: Nico Stenschke – Kemberg

ICELAND: Ólafur Einarsson – Reykjavik

JAPAN: Manabu and Nobuko Abe – Tokyo

LATVIA: Dima Bolko – Riga

LITHUANIA: Julius Morkūnas – Klaipėda

NETHERLANDS: Jan Beekman – Abcoude; Bart Nolet – Wageningen

POLAND: Maria Wieloch – Gdansk; Radoslaw Wlodarczyk – Lodz

RUSSIA: Diana Solovyova – Magadan; Peter Glazov – Moscow; Oleg Mineev – Syktyvkar

SWEDEN: Leif Nilsson – Lund

UNITED KINGDOM: Chris Taylor – Burscough; Eileen Rees – Gloucester; Kane Brides – Manchester; Christopher and Mary Perrins – Oxford; Julia Newth – Slimbridge

USA:

Alaska: Shannon Jensen, Kyle Smith – Anchorage; Tom Rothe – Eagle River; *California*: Steve Piatek – Belvedere; John Oakes – Redwood City; *Colorado*: Adrianna Araya – Lakewood; *District of Columbia*: Steve Holmer; *Florida*: Sally Graziano – Altamonte Springs; *Illinois*: Byron Paulsen – Manito; *Maryland*: Larry Hindman – Cambridge; *Michigan*: David Luukkonen – East Lansing; *Minnesota*: Kevin O'Brien – St. Paul; *Montana*: Jim Roscoe – Dillon; *New Jersey*: Anne Decker – Rutherford; *New York*: William Dellisola – Lindenhurst; *Ohio*: Brendan Shirkey – Fremont; *Oregon*: Bruce Taylor – West Linn; *Virginia*: Thomas Wood – Warrenton; Louise Edsell – Manassas; *Washington*: Gaythia Weis – Bellingham; Myrna Mahin – La Conner; Madeline Rose – Oak Harbor; *Wisconsin*: Allie Hieneck – Franksville

THE TRUMPETER SWAN SOCIETY

Assuring the Vitality and Welfare of Wild Trumpeter Swans

TTSS BOARD, STAFF, AND ASSOCIATES

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Carl Woodward III, *Roseland, New Jersey*

We are delighted to welcome so many international members, who joined as part of their registration for the International Swan Symposium!

STAFF

Margaret Smith,
Executive Director

Becky Abel,
Associate Director

Madeleine Linck,
Admin. Assistant

Mary Gillette,
Admin. Assistant

ASSOCIATES

John Cornely,
Senior Conservation Advisor

Martha Jordan,
Washington Swan Stewards Chair

Ruth Shea,
Greater Yellowstone Coordinator

TRUMPETINGS EDITORS

Becky Abel, Margaret Smith, Dave Weaver



Photo by Dave Weaver



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