



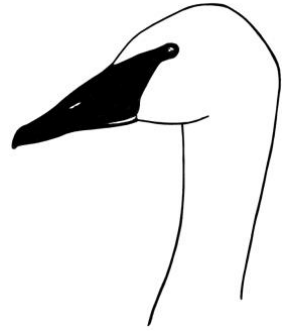
TRUMPETINGS

Voice of The Trumpeter Swan Society

12615 Rockford Rd., Plymouth, MN 55441-1248
715-441-1994

Website: www.trumpeterswansociety.org

Email: ttss@trumpeterswansociety.org



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

VOL. 32 No. 1

MAY 2022

Thanks to you, three Arkansas swans are being tracked



Above: Thanks to you, in late December 2021, male swan 7L received his tracking collar, was weighed and had blood samples taken to assess his health. Arkansas Game and Fish (above) and MN researcher David Wolfson worked with Dr. Gary Ivey and Verlon Abrams of the Trumpeter Swan Society to successfully deploy the collars. Photo © James Kane

Right: It is exciting to see that by May 10, 2022, the swans returned to their summer nesting areas, including 7L to eastern Manitoba, 8L to northwest Ontario and 9L to northern Minnesota.



Above: Arkansas swan travels December 20, 2021-May 10, 2022. 8L is green line, now in northwest Ontario, 7L is dark blue line, now in Manitoba and 9L is yellow line, now in Minnesota. Each swan was paired and 7L and 9L had at least one cygnet at the time of collaring.

Thanks to you, TTSS purchased three GPS/GSM collars that were deployed on adult swans in late December 2021 at Heber Springs, Arkansas. A cygnet received a fourth collar donated by the Canadian Wildlife Service but died a few weeks later from a predator attack.

You can track the travels of over 100 Midwest swans that are part of this three-year study at:
https://trumpeterswan.netlify.app/last_7days_locations.html ♦

Harry Lumsden, Ontario's remarkable swan champion

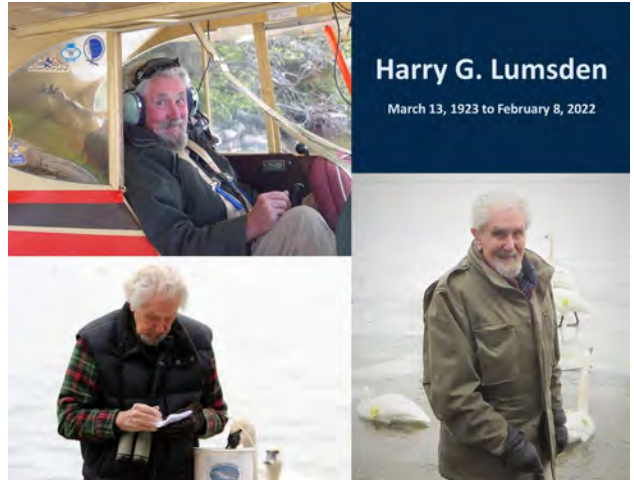
Harry Lumsden passed away February 8, 2022. He will be greatly missed. He was a Society member for over 40 years and a board member for 30 years.

Harry was a man of great accomplishments and a life well lived, full of legacies, respected worldwide for his work in rehabilitating the Trumpeter Swan population in Ontario, a self-taught biologist/ornithologist and "a life-long student of birds."

On October 30, 2003, Harry received The Order of Canada Award, and in 2004 he became a Member of the Order of Canada, one of Canada's honours for his outstanding contribution to wildlife management and conservation.

In 1982, Harry's work began on a recovery program in Ontario for the endangered Trumpeter Swan.

After Harry's career headed into retirement the Ontario Trumpeter Swan Restoration Program became his primary focus. Together with the aid of private funding and a group of dedicated volunteers the Ontario Trumpeter Swan population was estimated in 2007 at 1,000 birds and was classified as a re-established self-sustaining population in the province. Today the Trumpeter Swan Population in Ontario is over 2,500 swans.



Above: A life of remarkable achievements. The Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement was awarded to Harry Lumsden on February 24, 2012, for his work with Trumpeter Swans.

Over his lifetime, he authored over 100+ publications and was a co-author on 50+ others. His life's work has made Harry G. Lumsden respected throughout the world for his ornithological accomplishments.

You're invited! 26th Swan Conference and 7th International Symposium

You are invited to the joint 7th International Swan Symposium and 26th Trumpeter Swan Society Swan Conference that will be held at the Snow King Resort, Jackson, Wyoming on **24 - 27 October 2022**.

This 4-day educational event is hosted by the Trumpeter Swan Society and the Ricketts Conservation Foundation, in partnership with the IUCN-SSC Swan Specialist Group.

The Symposium/Conference will feature three days of presentations on the world's swan populations. There will be an all-day field trip. Come early or stay later and explore the fantastic Yellowstone and Teton region.

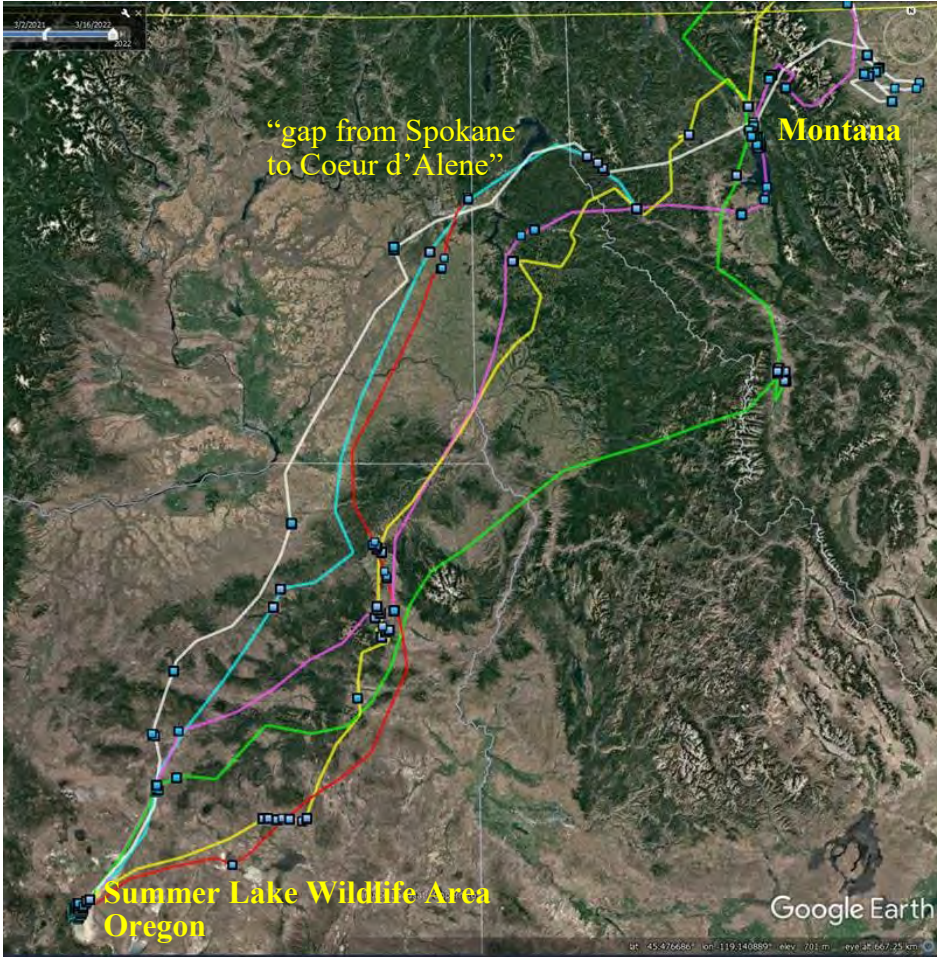


Snow King Resort, Jackson, Wyoming

Where: Jackson, Wyoming ([Snow King Resort](#)) 400 E Snow King Avenue | Jackson | WY | 83001

Learn more: Trumpeterswansociety.org> What-we-do> Symposium-Conference ♦

Oregon Restoration Project– your winter swan tracking update



Your gift supported the Oregon Restoration Project. Thank you!

Left: Map of wintering Oregon GPS/GSM collared swans’ spring migrations through March (three birds x 2 migrations), showing their routes in the lower 48 states and places they stopped.

Interestingly, all three birds have now used the gap from Spokane, Washington to Coeur d’Alene, Idaho but only on one of their migrations.

The swans were collared in February 2021 at Summer Lake Wildlife Area in Oregon. GPS tracking showed the swans spending the summer in Alberta, Canada.

Google Earth map and update by Brandon Reishus



Thanks to your support of Trumpeter Watch, Oregon-released swans 4@2 and 8@8 were reported together in early April at William Finley National Wildlife Refuge.

Above: 8@8 (right) is a soon to be 4-year old male that hatched at Summer Lake in 2018. 4@2 (left) is a female cygnet that hatched at Northwest Trek (zoo) near Seattle in 2017. She has been spotted in British Columbia (2019), and traveled between Summer Lake Wildlife Area and William Finley NWR during the 2020 summer. She has spent winters at Summer Lake Wildlife Area. It is interesting that she is so capable of moving around the Pacific NW. Photo by Amy Murphy



Above: 9@4 at Church Slough, MT
She was marked by Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife staff as a yearling at Summer Lake Wildlife Area in Lake County, Oregon on February 12, 2021 as part of a study of trumpeters wintering and staging there.

Trumpeter Watch report and photograph of 9@4 by BJ Worth on March 22, 2022 at Church Slough, Montana.

Western swan travels by Andrea Kristof, USFWS, Wildlife Biologist, Camas NWR

Autumn adventures
September 15-December 15

Thanks to your support of this western swan tracking project, we have now gotten a look at two years of fall migrations of western National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) GPS/GSM collared swans. There are some big surprises!

Camas swan, #390 (right) traveled the farthest during fall migration 2021, leaving northeastern British Columbia on October 14th and arriving in Idaho on December 10th, nearly 1,500 miles and two months later.

Although most of its fall migration was travel oriented, it did take two breaks to refuel: a ten day stay at Winagami Lake in Alberta and a month long dabble around the Ennis Lake area of Montana.

This movement is even more impressive when compared to its fall migration the previous year, (2020) in which this bird moved a mere ~340 miles from the Upper Snake River Plain to the Bear River Valley near Preston.



Above: **RED ROCK LAKES #392 stayed on the swan migration interstate.** It left the Crestomere Lake area in Alberta on October 26th and lingered at nearby Gull Lake for another week before embarking on a ~1,370 mile trip that it accomplished within four days. #392 crossed into Montana on November 6th, and didn't waste any time in getting over the Centennial Mountains into Idaho on November 8th.



Above: **CAMAS #391 elected to take the scenic route.** It began its southward journey earlier than the other swans on September 16th opting for extended stays on Alberta's Athabasca River, Maxwell Lake, and Wabamum Lake. It finally crossed the border in Montana on October 30th and reentered Idaho on November 4th.

Not far from home

It has been thought that most Greater Yellowstone trumpeter swans are relatively non-migratory. Some of this new GSM tracker information conflicts with that notion, but some of it supports it.

Two birds collared at Bear Lake NWR appear to spend their entire annual cycle within a ~75 mile radius of Bear Lake NWR with most of that movement confined to a ~30 mile radius (green lines, below).

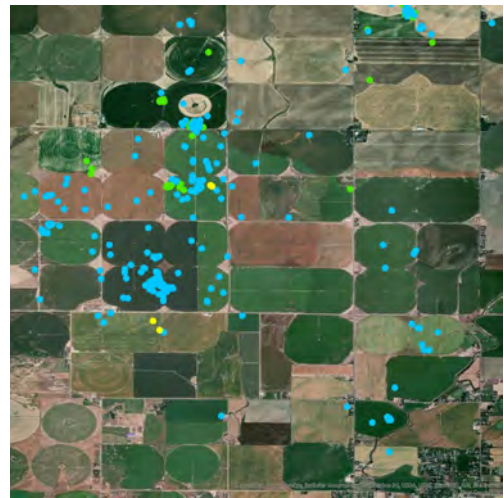


They are using different areas during the fall and winter, presumably where open water persists and they have access to food. These areas are not far from their summer habitat so all their fall and winter calories can promote overwinter survival instead of powering thousands of miles of migratory flights.

Does this allow them to “arrive” in better body condition for breeding at ice out? Bear Lake NWR has certainly fledged many large broods in years past. Does this lack of movement isolate them from other swans and make finding a mate difficult or increase the probability of genetic inbreeding? It’s tough to say.

We do know that these birds are found in groups of swans in some of their wintering areas along the shores of Bear Lake or in the Green River of Wyoming.

Overall, we’ve observed a paradox of very high levels of swan fledging but low recruitment into the Bear Lake flock. Where are these young birds going? Are they unable to survive the winter or are they immigrating to other areas? As is typical with science, gaining information just leads to more questions!



Above: Swans from Camas #390 (green), Red Rock Lakes #392 (sky blue), and #393 (yellow) likely taking advantage of some good eats in the Snake River Plain croplands in fall and winter.

Would you like French fries with that?

Over the last few decades, biologists noticed that wintering trumpeter swans were foraging in crop fields in British Columbia (1970s), the Pacific Northwest (1980s) and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (1990s).

This was an interesting change in behavior from strictly water-based feeding for trumpeter swans. Foraging in crop fields during winter has potential implications for their winter distribution, nutrition, habitat use and selection, and human-wildlife conflicts.

We have little information about this learned behavior other than it happens most often in the fall and winter. There is speculation that the Yellowstone ecosystem birds learned this behavior from migrating tundra swans, that it was an adaptive response to the conversion of native habitat to agriculture, and that they have a penchant for potatoes left in the crop fields. But there is little data available to say one way or the other.

Additionally, we don’t know who is field feeding (Canadian trumpeters or Greater Yellowstone flocks? Young or old birds?), where, when, or how often. Are these birds getting a significant amount of nutrition from this foraging behavior during migration and winter?

Or is this the fast food equivalent of the swan world providing little more than abundant calories? Is it exposing them to higher levels of mortality through power line collision, predation, or contaminant exposure? There is more to learn!

Swan Health update from Washington– thanks to you!

Thanks to your support of Trumpeter Watch, three injured or sick swans that were successfully rehabbed in past years were reported to be thriving this winter.



Above: M27 is a male swan that hatched in 2007 or earlier and was banded in March 2010 (12 years ago!) in WA. He was reported in Skagit County, Washington in January 2022 by Eric Bell and in March 2022 near Mount Vernon, Washington by Ashley Whitman (photo above).



Above: K35 is a male swan that was released in January 2021 near Ferndale, Washington. He was reported in 2021 near Vanderhoof, British Columbia. In May 2021 he was reported in North Pole, Alaska. This winter, he was reported on the Nechako River at Vanderhoof, British Columbia in March and April with a possible mate. Photo and report by Anne Spiers.



Left: K45 was reported by Suzy Wright near Quesnel, British Columbia in late March 2022. It was rehabbed this winter in Washington for lead poisoning and released back into the wild on March 8, 2022.

Swan Mortality Report Winter 2021-2022

Powerline collisions were the leading source of swan mortalities this past winter in northwest Washington and Sumas Prairie, British Columbia. They accounted for 37% of the 166 swan mortalities analyzed for cause of death. Flooding and cold were major issues this winter. Frozen fields and snow cover limited use of common roost sites and swans were more often spotted in ditches. When flying at night swans are prone to striking overhead lines. Lead poisoning accounted for another 23% of mortalities with the remaining 40% of deaths from undetermined causes and other trauma. ♦

You raised funds for genetic testing– thank you!

You raised funds for the last batch of zoo trumpeter swans needing genetic testing for flyway placement. Thank you!

The online fundraiser featured exclusive Trumpeter Swan Society “Swan Love” shirts. The shirt fundraiser notice was only through *Enews*. The next Swan Love shirt fundraising campaign will be in January 2023. Make sure you are signed up for *Enews* to receive these special online (only) offers. ♦

Photo (right): Member Paul Moffett and his grandkids enjoy birding in their Swan Love shirts.



Your help is needed for education booklets about swans

You know how important it is for youth to be connected to nature and the importance of its protection.

Your help is needed today to create downloadable education booklets about swans and their habitats throughout the year.

Your gift today will be used in this North American Swan Fund project. This is a special fund for swan research, education and swan habitat projects.

Each education booklet will contain a variety of activities geared to different age levels.

Your gift of \$25 or more will help fund a portion of one page. A gift of \$125 funds one complete page.

If funds exceed what is needed for the project, your gift will be used for other education and habitat projects and swan research funded through the North American Swan Fund.

Photo by Greg Snowden



Yes! I want to help fund a page for a youth education booklet

_____ \$25

_____ \$50 (funds 1/2 page)

_____ \$100

_____ \$125 (funds one page)



I want to help fund an education page about swans and their habitats

Donate by check, credit card or ACH
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Donate securely **online** through credit card or ACH at **www.trumpeterswansociety.org**

My gift helps special projects for Trumpeter Swans

My Gift for the education booklet project \$ _____

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In This Issue:

- Thanks to you, 3 Arkansas swans are being tracked
- The passing of Harry Lumsden
- You're invited to the Swan Conference
- Tracking wintering Oregon swans
- Western swan travels
- Swan health update from Washington
- You raised funds for genetic testing of swans
- Your help needed for education booklet

Become a monthly donor to the North American Swan Fund!

Monthly Donation Authorization Form:

Yes, I want to be a monthly donor to the North American Swan Fund!

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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at the financial institution named below.

Bank Name _____


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

Signature: _____

Thank You! (You can directly sign up for online monthly ACH withdrawals or credit card donations on our [How to Help >North American Swan Fund web page](#))

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. You are always current which means swans can count on you every day of the year!

Platinum
Transparency
2022

Candid.

TRUMPETINGS EDITORS

John Cornely, Gary Ivey, Margaret Smith

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