

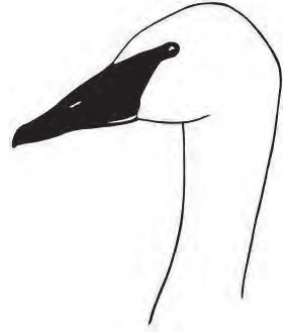


# TRUMPETINGS

*Voice of The Trumpeter Swan Society*

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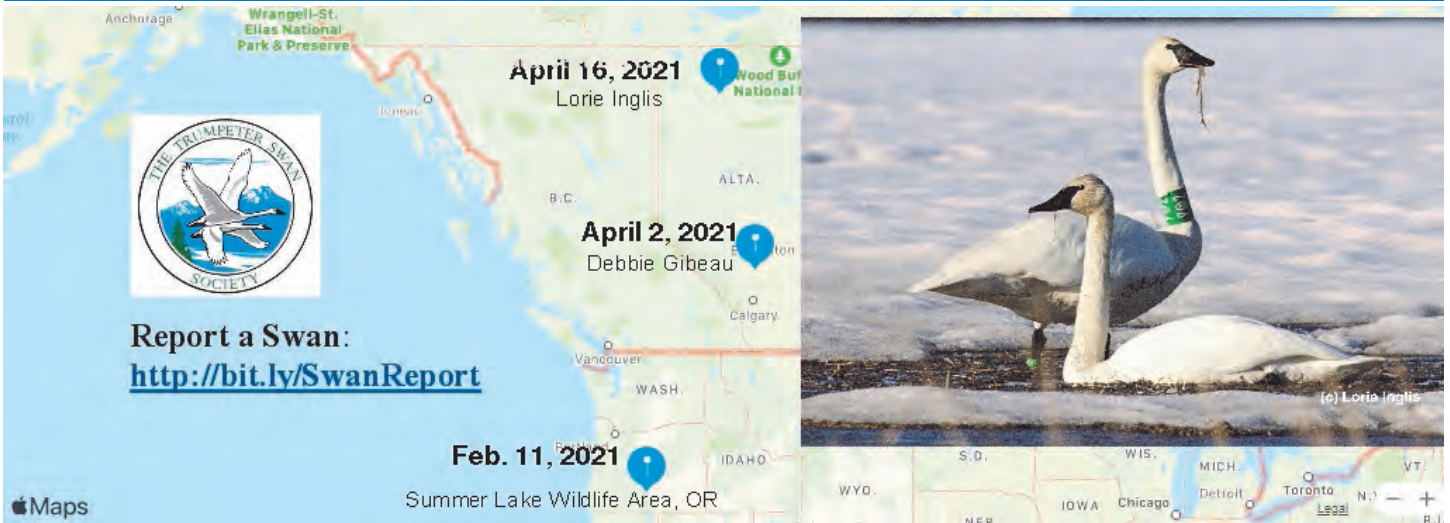
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Email: [ttss@trumpeterswansociety.org](mailto:ttss@trumpeterswansociety.org)



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

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MAY 2021



Above: 9@2, one of eight wintering swans collared at Summer Lake Wildlife Area in February was reported in two Alberta, Canada locations in April. **Your support of Trumpeter Watch made these reports possible.** © Lorie Inglis swan photo

**Thanks to you,** Trumpeter Watch reports in 2021 updated Midwest and western swan research projects and the Oregon Restoration Program. Your support of Trumpeter Watch has given swan managers in states and provinces important information about swans in their programs including new areas used by swans and even swan longevity.

**Oregon Restoration Project:** Trumpeter Swans wintering at Oregon's Summer Lake Wildlife Area were recently tracked and reported in previously unknown areas in Canada.

Eight unmarked wintering swans received collars at Summer Lake in February 2021. Three collars were white GSM/GPS tracking collars. Five wintering swans received green neck collars with white codes.

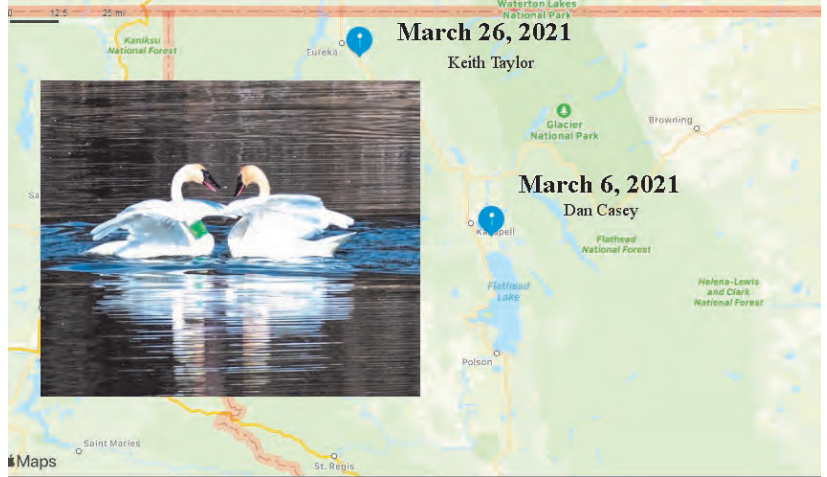


Above: One of the three GSM/GPS collared wintering swans was reported at Lesser Slave River in Alberta, Canada in April. Photo © Edith Mackenzie

## Oregon Restoration Project update (cont.)



Above: The new female swan, Valentina (“Val”) meets male swan “Gus” (right) at Sunriver Nature Center in February for the first time. Photo © Tom Lawler



Through your support of Trumpeter Watch we learned male Oregon Trumpeter Swan 3@4 is in Montana with his mate. 3@4 hatched at Sunriver Nature Center in 2016 to “Chuck and Grace.” He was released at Summer Lake Wildlife Area in 2016 (Dec. 2016 Trumpetings). Photo of 3@4 and mate © Keith Taylor

Recent Trumpeter Watch reports included three of these wintering swans returning to Alberta in March and April.

It was exciting to learn Oregon swan 3@4 is now in northern Montana and has a mate. His recent arrival there made the local news!

Sunriver Nature Center welcomed a new female swan, “Valentina” to replace “Grace” who was killed by a predator last fall. “Val and Gus” are now Sunriver Nature Center’s captive breeding pair for the Oregon Restoration Project. ♦



Above: 7@7 is a wild male Trumpeter Swan captured and collared in July 2018 as a yearling at Summer Lake Wildlife Area. He has been reported several times in British Columbia as well as returning to Summer Lake each winter. In late March he was reported at Wolf Ranch near Chase, BC by Allan Dupilka

## Lead poisoning remained a serious issue in the Pacific NW

Your support made sure swan health issues in the Pacific Northwest were shared with TTSS. Sadly, the highest number of swan deaths in seven Washington counties and Sumas Prairie, British Columbia this winter were from suspected lead poisoning and power line collisions. There were nearly 500 swan mortalities with 53% suspected from lead. We are committed to working to reduce swan deaths there with your help. ♦

Swan Mortality Report Winter 2020-2021						
	Lead suspect	Powerline suspect	Other trauma	Undetermined	Feather Pile	Total
<b>Total</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>490</b>



# Surprising movements of western swans!



**Thanks to you, western swan movements are being tracked right now!**

Through your support, TTSS purchased several collars for this western tracking project.

Here's an update from Andrea Kristof, Wildlife Biologist at Camas National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) of some unexpected movements.

**Map (Left):** *Movements of GSM/GPS collared swans since July 2020. Lines are color coded by deployment location at National Wildlife Refuges (NWR)*

- ⇒ Blues: Camas NWR
- ⇒ Purples/Red: Bear Lake NWR
- ⇒ Yellow: Grays Lake NWR
- ⇒ Greens: Red Rock Lakes NWR

Map courtesy of Andrea Kristof, Camas NWR, United States Fish and Wildlife Service

In the past three years the Southeast Idaho Refuge Complex deployed GSM/GPS tracking collars on adult Trumpeter Swans to track their annual movements.

Nine different swans were collared: three at Camas NWR, three at Bear Lake NWR, one at Grays Lake NWR and two at Red Rocks Lake NWR in SW Montana. So far most of these birds have not traveled much more than 100 to 150 miles from nesting or molting areas to wintering areas.

However, one bird collared at Bear Lake NWR in 2020 migrated over to Seedskaadee NWR in SW Wyoming and wintered on the Green River (red line on map).

There was even more exciting news in April. Two swans collared at Camas National Wildlife Refuge in 2020 decided to show us something entirely different.

Both swans were captured during their second summer while they were molting at Camas NWR as part of a group of juveniles.

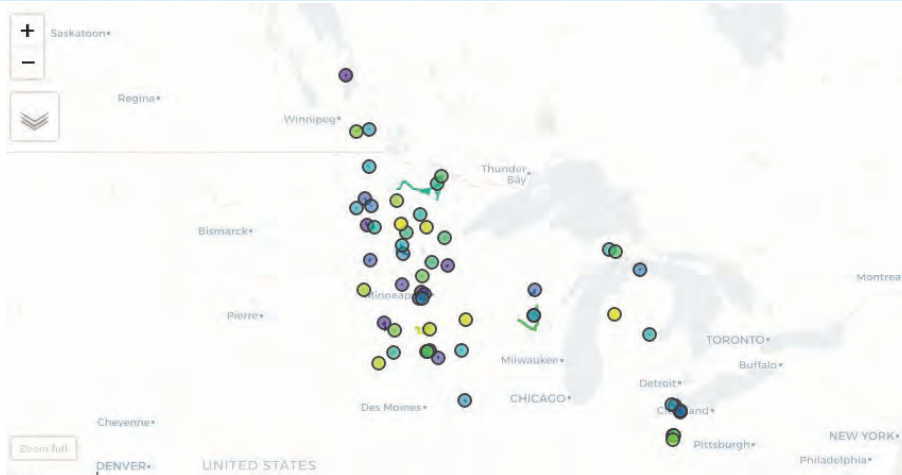
From its summer habitat, swan 201391 (dark blue line on map) moved about 100 miles south to winter near Chesterfield and Alexander Reservoirs in southeastern Idaho. As winter weather began to recede, 201391 made the day flight back to Camas NWR on April 4.

But almost two weeks later on April 16, this bird continued north and over the next four days would travel almost 800 miles to settle (we think) on a lake west of Edmonton, Alberta.

Camas collared swan 201390 (light blue line on map) left Camas on April 27 and crossed into Canada on April 30. From there, it seems the swan is taking a more leisurely trip through Alberta.

This makes us wonder how many more western swans make these types of movements. ♦

## You tracked Midwest swans



Above: Trumpeter Swans returned to their nesting and summer grounds, arriving from their wintering grounds in March and April. Your support of Trumpeter Watch made sure reports of GSM/GPS collared swans in the project were shared with the researchers and state and provincial team leaders in the project. Photo (right) © Tracy Jorgensen: Wisconsin siblings 2P and 3P were reported in April near their original 2020 capture site. They spent the winter together in southern Illinois with their parents and returned to Wisconsin in March. The siblings have since split and are each on different waterbodies in late April.

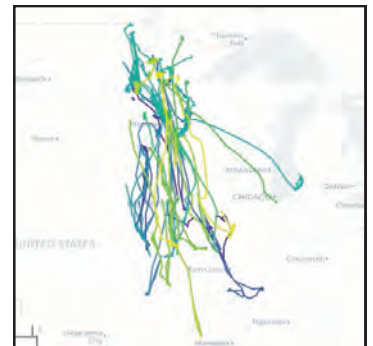
Your support made it possible to be a partner in this Midwest swan tracking project, including the purchase of seven collars. More than 90 swans have been collared with more collars to be deployed this summer.

You made it possible to review and share Trumpeter Watch sightings of nearly 40 Midwest swans in the tracking study. Thank you!

The reports included swans from each of the participating states and province: Iowa, Manitoba, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Some interesting data from the GSM/GPS swans this winter show

- ◆ Manitoba, Minnesota and Wisconsin swans travelled the farthest to wintering sites.
- ◆ Minnesota swans were the most widely dispersed (map, right).
- ◆ Swans in Michigan's Upper Peninsula travelled greater distances than swans in the Lower Peninsula but all collared swans stayed within the state.
- ◆ Ohio swans remained in Ohio.
- ◆ Iowa swans wintered in Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, Missouri and Kansas.



Minnesota GSM/GPS swan movements July 2020 through March 2, 2021

**Can you help?** The public website recently added a “Most Recent Locations” page. Visit the website below to see if a swan pair is near you. Researchers are looking for volunteers to report on nesting activity. If you are interested in learning more please contact Margaret Smith at [ftss@trumpeterswansociety.org](mailto:ftss@trumpeterswansociety.org)

GSM/GPS Midwest Tracking public website:  
[https://trumpeterswan.netlify.app/last\\_7days\\_locations.html](https://trumpeterswan.netlify.app/last_7days_locations.html)

Shortcut link to reporting: <http://bit.ly/SwanReport>



# Thank you for your support of Trumpeter Watch

Thanks to you, hundreds of Trumpeter Watch reports of wintering and migrating swans were reviewed since January and shared where they were needed most. These reports gave valuable information to biologists and swan managers about locations and habitats used by swans.

Is the swan location safe? Is it a new area used by a swan family or group of swans? Is the location growing in importance? Is it secure habitat?

Your support of Trumpeter Watch answered these questions.

Here is a sample of a few of the hundreds of Trumpeter Watch reports reviewed and shared since January. ♦



Above: **Georgia:** This lone swan was reported in two locations by Joy Clemens and Kemper Harris in April 2021.



Top Left: **British Columbia,** Tlell River estuary, March 2021.

Barbara Small photo

Right: **Missouri:** Wisconsin swan 06A is the oldest recorded swan wintering at Riverlands, MO. It will be 18 years old this summer. Doug Hommert photo

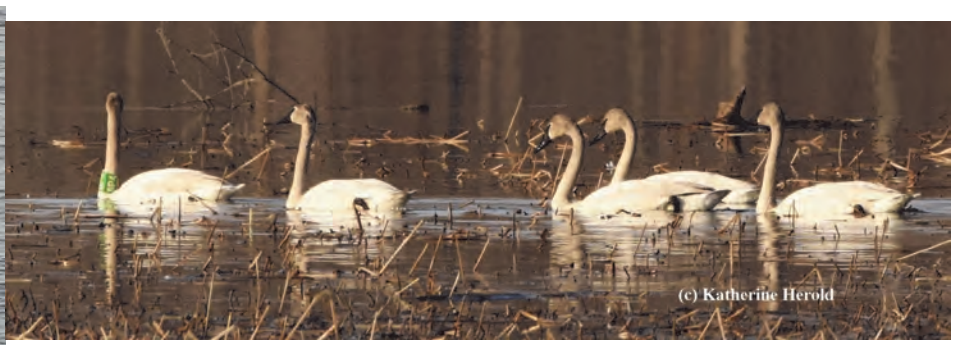


Middle Left: **Manitoba:** Wisconsin swan 2T2 was reported in Manitoba by Joanne Smith, April 2021.

Right: **Nebraska:** High Plains Flock swans reported in central Nebraska in mid-March by Caroline Stafford

Bottom Left: **Montana:** Idaho swan R20 was reported near Kalispell, Montana in early April by Dan Casey

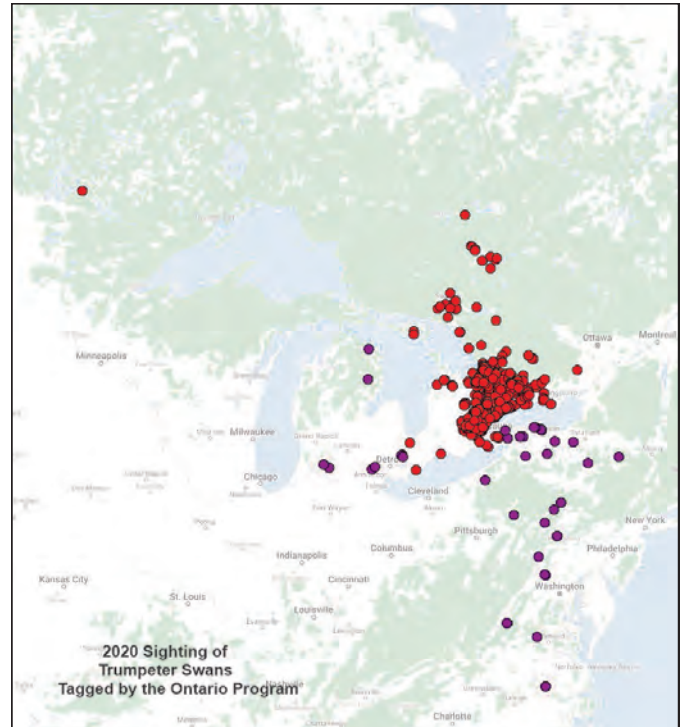
Right: **Minnesota:** Iowa cygnet 8P4, part of the Midwest swan tracking study was sighted in northern MN by Katherine Herold in early April. It became separated from its Iowa parents in October 2020.



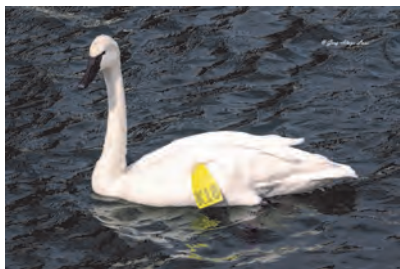
# Ontario Swan Update



Above Left: P61, a 2016 hatch year female has spent the past four winters in Waynesboro, VA. Last summer she returned north to Powassen, ON, a 900 km trip. Trumpeter Watch photo and report by Flora Hyden, Virginia, March 9, 2021.



Above Right: Map showing locations of 2020 wing-tagged Ontario Trumpeter Swans observations. Each dot represents where Ontario tagged birds have been sighted at least once. Most of these locations were repeated sightings often of multiple different tagged birds. Sightings came from many sources, including Trumpeter Watch. Map by Gary Lane



Above. Lead poisoning is a serious health issue for Ontario swans.

One success story is K18. In December 2019 she began treatment for lead toxicity. "She spent the 2020 summer gaining strength and weight. She flew off from the Ontario pond on Oct 2nd and we did not see her for the next three months."

"At the end of December 2020 she arrived back at her wintering grounds looking fabulous." Kyna Intini, TTSS Board Member  
Photo © Gary Lane

Most Trumpeter Watch reports are sightings of Ontario wing-tagged swans.

The return of swans to Ontario is a remarkable story that continues.

Harry Lumsden, retired Ministry of Natural Resources biologist, is the force and visionary behind the return of Trumpeter Swans to Ontario. He served as a TTSS board member for nearly 30 years.

In the 1980s, Harry Lumsden obtained eggs from Alaska (Pacific Coast Population) and Alberta (Rocky Mountain Population). He recruited Ontario landowners to host captive breeding pairs. Between 1982-2006, 584 captive reared Trumpeter Swans were released at

two years of age in southern Ontario.

Since then nearly 2,300 Ontario Trumpeter Swans, both captive reared and wild-hatched, have been marked. It is estimated about a quarter of Ontario's southern swans are marked with yellow wing tags.

Each year about 600 unique wing tagged swans are reported in Ontario while about 25 Ontario swans are reported in the US.

Observations are through TTSS's Trumpeter Watch and Wye Marsh reports and Ontario volunteers daily collecting sightings from social media, emails and other bird reporting programs such as eBird and iNaturalist. ♦



# Become a Monthly Swan Sustainer

Trumpeter Swans need your help to return to regions where they have been absent for decades. They also need your help to make sure they are in habitats that are safe, secure and known.


**Monthly giving is the most effective way to ensure swan conservation programs keep working every day, twelve months a year.** It's convenient for you and easy on your budget.

You can have as little as \$5 per month automatically charged to your credit card or withdrawn from your bank account, so your membership is always current. It's easier for you -- and a reliable source of monthly revenue for us so we can plan our budget more efficiently.

**Your secure monthly gift will help swans through TTSS programs that:**

- work with partners to restore and manage swans across North America
- safeguard swan health and protect habitat swans use throughout the year
- advocate on issues and threats affecting swans
- fund research for science-based knowledge to help swans long term

Send in the form below or sign up online at [www.TrumpeterSwanSociety.org](http://www.TrumpeterSwanSociety.org)>How to Help> Monthly Giving

<p> <i>I want to be a Swan Sustainer!</i></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>Email _____</p>	<p><b>Become a monthly Swan Sustainer</b></p> <p>Donate monthly through your bank account or credit card</p> <p><b>Your monthly gift helps swans every day of the year</b></p> <p><b>My Monthly Gift for swans \$ _____</b></p> <p>I prefer to give by:</p> <p>____ Checking or Savings (see back),</p> <p>____ Credit Card __ Visa __ MC __ Discover __ AmEx</p> <p>Card # _____</p> <p>Card Expiration date ____/____ Security Code _____</p> <p>Name on Card _____</p> <p>Signature _____</p>
<p>Mail to:</p> <p><b>The Trumpeter Swan Society</b> <b>12615 Rockford Rd.</b> <b>Plymouth, MN 55441-1248</b></p> <p>OR</p> <p>Donate securely <b>online</b> through credit card or ACH at <a href="http://www.trumpeterswansociety.org">www.trumpeterswansociety.org</a></p>	



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## Become a monthly Swan Sustainer!

### Swan Sustainer Monthly Donation Authorization Form:

**Yes, I want to be a monthly Swan Sustainer member. Swans can count on my support all year.**

I authorize *The Trumpeter Swan Society* to electronically debit my account monthly on the *18th* of each month as follows:

Checking account  Savings account (select one)

at the financial institution named below.

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Routing Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Monthly Gift Amount:**

\$5    \$10    \$15    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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 >Monthly Giving web page](#))

**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

Making a donation using direct withdrawal via ACH from your checking or savings is fast, easy, and secure.

**It's simple, safe, and saves money. It reduces our costs** so you help swans even more.

