



TRUMPETINGS

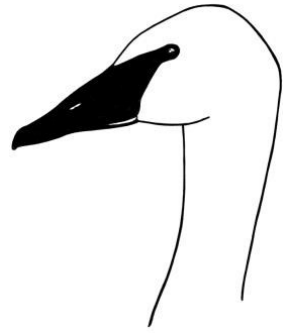
Voice of The Trumpeter Swan Society

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

VOL. 32 No. 3

DECEMBER 2022

Thanks to you, swans have restored western habitat

Thanks to you, 619 acres of wetland, wet meadow, cottonwood riparian and upland habitat have been restored just south of Jackson, Wyoming.

This important South Park Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA) is owned and managed by Wyoming Game and Fish Commission.

The Trumpeter Swan Society is one of 14 partners in this important Ducks Unlimited Inc. wetland restoration project.

The project restored permanent wetlands that are crucial nesting and brood rearing habitat for Trumpeter Swans.

With new modern infrastructure, managers can move water into new and existing shallow water emergent wetlands.

Shallow water wetlands also produce high quality foraging habitat for migratory birds.

In addition, the project improves water quality before waters reach the Snake River.

The restoration project construction started in May 2022 and was completed as of November 2022. ♦

Photo by Ducks Unlimited, Inc.



Above: This Wyoming project restored permanent wetlands that are crucial nesting and brood rearing habitat for Trumpeter Swans. You made it possible to be a partner in this important wetland project.

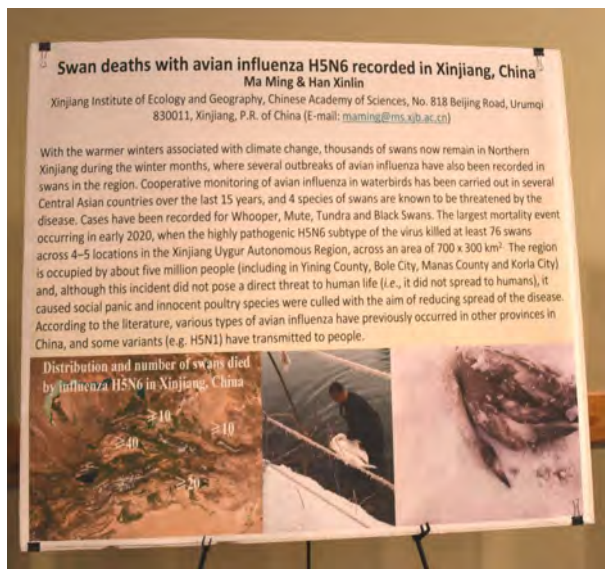
Symposium & Conference: Swans, Snow, Science

By Eileen Rees, Julia Newth & Jeff Snyder, IUCN-SSC Swan Specialist Group

The 7th International Swan Symposium (7th ISS) of the IUCN-SSC Swan Specialist Group (SSG) was held in conjunction with the 26th Conference of the Trumpeter Swan Society (TTSS). This follows a pattern established by the 4th ISS (at Airlie, Virginia, USA in 2001) and 5th ISS (at Easton, Maryland, USA in 2014) of combining these two major swan meetings for ISS held in North America.



Above: A Welcome Reception was held at the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson. The reception was generously sponsored by the Knobloch Family Foundation.



Above: There were 14 posters from around the world. This poster focused on swan deaths with avian influenza H5N6 in Xinjiang, China, authored by Ma Ming and Han Xinlin.

The symposium took place at the Snow King Resort in Jackson, Wyoming, from 24–27 October 2022, following a Welcome Reception held at the National Museum of Wildlife Art on the evening of 23 October.

The invitation to hold the meeting in Wyoming was made by Walter Wehtje of the Ricketts Conservation Foundation (RCF) just 4 years ago, during the 6th ISS (at Tartu, Estonia, in October 2018). The timing fulfils the Swan SG's recommendation at that time of continuing to convene swan symposia at 4–5 year intervals.

Given the unprecedented events since then, however – notably the global Covid 19 pandemic, and the war in Ukraine – it is a huge credit to the Organising Committee that they were able (through monthly Zoom meetings) to assess the uncertainties arising internationally and to ensure a remarkably well-attended and informative meeting.

Overall, 101 delegates registered, from 13 different countries. The talks/poster presentations ranged geographically from Canada and the USA via Eurasia to Australia. Walter Wehtje (RCF) and Margaret Smith (TTSS), in particular, ensured that everything went well, including virtual conferencing by Zoom for those unable to be there in person.

The ability to attend and/or present remotely – a first for a swan symposium – was invaluable for broadening the scope of the meeting, greatly enhancing the international component and discussions more widely.

During preparations for the meeting, it was noted that the history of the Trumpeter Swan Society and the IUCN-SSC Swan Specialist Group might not be familiar to more recent members of these organisations. It was decided to overview both on Monday morning.

You made it a reality. Thank you!

MONDAY:

The full program of 49 talks, 14 posters and 1 film kicked off on Monday morning. There were overviews on the origins, development, and current remit of TTSS and the SSG. Presentations then moved on to updates on population trends for migratory swan populations in Europe, and also for the U.S. segment of the Rocky Mountain Population of Trumpeter Swans.

In a keynote talk, Radoslaw Wlodarczyk (right) described the results of his extensive 25-year study of Mute Swan breeding in central Poland, where the species first became established during the 1960s then increased in numbers over the decades to stabilise at 70–100 pairs (some conclusions at right)

On Monday afternoon the theme changed to threats to swan species, with particular emphasis on lead poisoning from spent gunshot and anglers' weights. Lead remains a key threat to the birds but with the source of the lead varying locally and regionally in accordance with the level of use following local guidelines and national/international legislation.

TUESDAY:

The high standard of talks continued. Topics covered landscape/habitat use by the swans, factors (including social learning and climate change) affecting the timing of migration, and the efficacy of habitat management in mitigating for infrastructure development.

Towards the end of the day, we considered outreach programs and heard an interesting philosophical comparison of Darwinian and Aristotelian approaches to understanding the natural world.

A new film from the "Flight of the Swans" project, in which adventurer and conservationist Sacha Dench famously flew the whole of the Bewick's Swans' migration route from the Russian arctic to the UK by paramotor, was a beautiful and timely reminder of the joy that migratory swans give to people along their flyway.

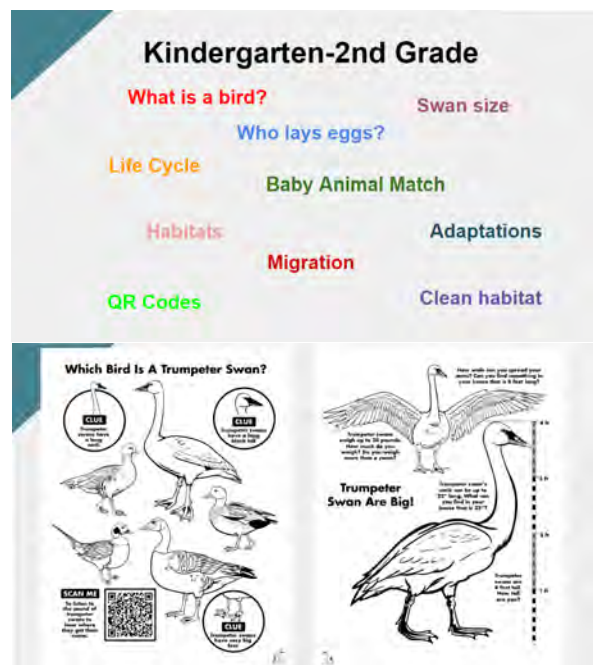
The insight into the Russian people's feelings for the swans and emphasis on the importance of sustained international



Conclusions

- Mute swan population confirms selection hypothesis
- Low quality birds are able to breed for only 1-2 years and disappear
- Good quality birds are not able to improve their breeding success

Above: Radoslaw Wlodarczyk shares his research, "Twenty-five years of Mute Swan population studies in central Poland."



"Helping Trumpeter Swans one crayon at a time: developing activity books to inspire youth" was a TTSS Tuesday presentation. Top: Concepts in the K-2 book. Bottom: Two page spread from the K-2 book.

Symposium & Conference: Swans, Snow, Science

cooperation for conserving species that regularly travers political boundaries felt particularly meaningful in these troubled times.

WEDNESDAY:

The mid-conference excursion on the Wednesday proved unexpectedly challenging (at least for the bus driver) when, following a most enjoyable morning viewing wildlife (Moose, Pronghorn, Mule Deer and various waterbirds including Trumpeter Swans) around Jackson, then picturesque buildings dating from the earliest white settlers (Mormons), plans for visiting the Grand Teton National Park had to be curtailed by heavy snow (Field Trip photos below).



The group returned to the Grand Teton Visitor Center for lunch in the snow and a bit of a rethink.

It was decided to make a visit to the National Elk Refuge (photo, below left), which combined good birdwatching with information on management of the refuge by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Vast machinery is used to provide a phenomenal 35 tons/day of alfalfa pellets to the thousands of elk which migrate to the refuge, as the snow sets in each winter.



Fortunately, Bill Long of the Wyoming Wetlands Society (WWS) had been planning a workshop on swan rearing techniques for those interested in aviculture, so a larger group than perhaps he expected visited the WWS Breeding Facility.

You made it a reality. Thank you!

THURSDAY:

The final day of talks was devoted mainly to Trumpeter Swan studies – especially on their movements and the outcome of population restoration programs. There was additional information on the outcome of site management and protection for migratory Bewick’s and Whooper Swans in NW Europe.

Three other workshops were also held: (1) an informal meeting of members of the Bewick’s Swan Expert Group, to prepare for the 10-year review of the International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP) developed for the NW European Population, (2) a meeting on the Interior Population Trumpeter Swan Management Plan (closed session), and (3) a workshop on the operation of the IUCN-SSC Swan SG.

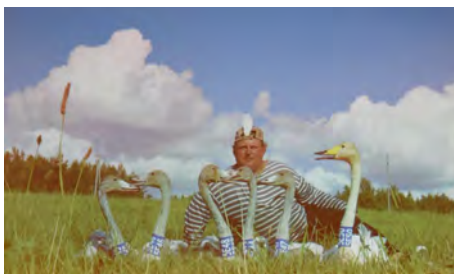
The excellent scientific program was developed thanks to abstracts for presentations submitted by the authors, all assessed by the Scientific Committee: Eileen Rees (Chair), Dmitrijs Boiko, Dave Delehanty, Lei Cao, Preben Clausen, John Cornely, Craig Ely, Bart Nolet, Jeff Snyder, Diana Solovyeva & Radosław Włodarczyk.

The SSG is immensely grateful to TTSS and to the Ricketts Conservation Foundation (RCF) for supporting the meeting, both in organising a highly successful event and for fund-raising activity.

Last, but far from being least, the consistent effort put in by Organising Committee members (Craig Ely, Gary Ivey, John Cornely, Carl Mitchell, Dave Olson, Eileen Rees, Margaret Smith, Jeff Snyder and Walter Wehtje) resulted in an exceptionally successful and enjoyable meeting.


We now look forward to the next international swan symposium, for synthesising and disseminating updated knowledge of the world’s swan populations, in 3–4 years’ time! ♦

Whooper Swans and researcher, Dmitrijs Boiko



SYMPOSIUM and SWAN CONFERENCE	
SPONSORS	
The Trumpeter Swan Society, Ricketts Conservation Foundation and the IUCN-SSC Swan Specialist Group thank our sponsors for their generous support.	
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 Anonymous, in memory of Harry Lumsden and David Lockman	Supporter Sponsor \$100 - \$499  Sara DePew

Thank you to our conference sponsors: The Knobloch Family Foundation, Ricketts Conservation Foundation, US Geological Survey (USGS), Yellowstone Forever, Mississippi Flyway Council, Central Flyway Council, Pacific Flyway Council, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Elk Refuge, Anonymous donation in memory of Harry Lumsden and Dave Lockman, Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative, Intermountain West Joint Venture, & Sara DePew. **Thank you to our donors to the silent auction!**

	The Program and Abstracts are on TTSS website:
Photos by Margaret Smith, Leho Luigijõe	What We Do > Education and Research Projects > TTSS Swan Conferences

It's Trumpeter Watch time!

Trumpeter Swans are at wintering areas right now. They are finding new places with open water and food.

Please report swans you see, especially in new places. Please report swans with neck collars or wing tags.

Trumpeter Watch reports are reviewed and shared where needed most.

How? Go to our website> Home Page> Report a Swan ♦



Thank you for raising funds for healthy wetlands!

“Trumpeting the Cause for Wetlands” was a successful two week online shirt campaign in late November.

Trumpeter Swans are the crown jewels of healthy wetlands. But healthy wetlands are in decline or disappearing from many places. Drought, development and lack of protection continue this decline.

This is a very serious problem.

Wetlands are essential to survival.

Wetlands are home to thousands of plants and animal species around the world, including Trumpeter Swans.

Trumpeter Swans need healthy wetlands for raising families...for food...for safety.

We need wetlands too.

Wetlands prevent and reduce flooding. Wetlands keep water clean by filtering out sediment and toxins before they contaminate underground drinking supplies. Wetlands help recharge underground aquifers that supply fresh water to millions of people.

You raised funds for education and advocacy for the protection of wetland habitat. Thank you!

The Trumpeter Swan Society thanks Ron Andrews who led Iowa's swan restoration program for sharing his slogan “Trumpeting the Cause for Wetlands” and Jim McEvoy for his wonderful drawing of a Trumpeter Swan family in its wetland habitat.

These exclusive Trumpeter Swan Society shirts were available only through Enews. Make sure you are signed up for Enews to receive these special online (only) offers. If you want to receive notices about future shirt campaigns, email Margaret Smith at ttss@trumpeterswansociety.org. ♦



Will you be a Valentine for a swan?



Adopt a Swan for swan health and habitat!

You can give a swan a
Happy Valentine's Day

Keep a swan safe.

Your Adopt a Swan donation protects habitat and helps swans stay safe and healthy! Your gift will educate people about threats to swans like lead poisoning, power line collisions, and discarded fishing gear.

A swan "adoption" is symbolic. Your gift will be used for swan health and habitat to assure the vitality and welfare of wild Trumpeter Swans.

Make it a Happy Valentine's Day for a swan. Adopt a Swan today.



Special Valentine's Day
Offer!

With your Adopt a Swan
donation of \$50 or more,
you can choose to receive
this iconic 3" x 2.7" Swan
Love magnet!



I want to Adopt a Swan!

*If my gift is \$50 or more,
I want a Swan Love magnet*

Yes No

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Donate by check, credit card or ACH

One-Time or Monthly

Your monthly Adopt a Swan gift will be used for swan health and habitat.

Donate by credit card below or through your bank account (back page)

Your Adopt a Swan gift helps swans stay healthy and safe

My Gift \$ _____ One time Monthly

I prefer to give by:

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Card Expiration date ____/____ Security Code _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Mail to:

The Trumpeter Swan Society

12615 Rockford Rd.

Plymouth, MN 55441-1248

OR

Donate securely online at

TrumpeterSwanSociety.org/Valentine



The Trumpeter Swan Society
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Plymouth, MN 55441-1248

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In This Issue:

- Thanks to you, swans have western habitat that has been restored.
- Symposium & Conference: Swans, Snow, Science. You made it a reality.
- It's Trumpeter Watch time!
- Supporting healthy wetlands
- Will you be a Valentine for a swan?

Become a monthly Adopt a Swan donor!

Adopt a Swan Monthly Donation Authorization Form:

Yes, I want to be a monthly Adopt a Swan Donor!

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

at the financial institution named below.

Bank Name _____

Routing Number: _____

Account Number: _____


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

Signature: _____

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

TRUMPETINGS EDITORS
Gary Ivey, Eileen Rees, Margaret Smith

Go to 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 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!

