

Abstracts for 25th Swan Conference, Alton, Illinois

Abstracts both for oral and for poster presentations should be of up to 1000 words (max) and should be submitted to Margaret Smith, TTSS Executive Director, by email (ttss@trumpeterswansociety.org) The abstract should include the names of co-authors, their email addresses, the postal address of the correspondence author, and details of student status (if applicable). The abstracts will be included in the conference attendees' Program folders. They will also be posted as part of our 25th Swan Conference materials in 2020 on our website on our Swan Conference page (What we do> Education and Research> Swan Conferences)

The deadline for submission of abstracts is October 20, 2019.

Examples of Abstracts (narrative and/or research):

A CELEBRATION OF SWANS: YUKON'S PREMIER BIRDING FESTIVAL

Scott Cameron, Yukon government, Department of Environment, 10 Burns Road (V5N), Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 2C6

ABSTRACT

Each spring approximately ten per cent of Yukon's population participates in *A Celebration of Swans*, a birding festival organized by Yukon government's Wildlife Viewing Program. The festival occurs in April as waterbirds, most notably the Trumpeter Swan, migrate through southern Yukon enroute to their northern breeding grounds. Multiple festival events occur from early April to early May including guided walks, presentations, children's programming and arts workshops. Many community organizations and local individuals contribute to the festival by leading events and contributing expertise and funding. The hub of the festival is the Swan Haven Interpretive Centre on the shores of M'Clintock Bay, Marsh Lake. Thousands of swans, ducks and geese use M'Clintock Bay as a staging area during migration and the viewing opportunities are impressive. Beyond educational and nature-appreciation roles, *A Celebration of Swans* also serves a wildlife management function. Reducing ground-based and water-based disturbance of resting waterbirds, especially during migration, is the key goal of the festival. In fact, the Swan Haven Interpretive Centre was created primarily to encourage respectful viewing and behaviours near migrating waterbirds. For over 20 years *A Celebration of Swans* has facilitated learning and discovery of migrating waterbirds in southern Yukon.

THE 2010 NORTH AMERICAN TRUMPETER SWAN SURVEY

Deborah J. Groves, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3000 Vintage Blvd, Suite 240, Juneau, AK, 99801

Timothy J. Moser, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 5600 American Blvd, West, Suite 950, Bloomington, MN, 55437-1458

John E. Cornely, The Trumpeter Swan Society, 3 Cliffrose, Littleton, CO, 80127

ABSTRACT

The North American Trumpeter Swan Survey has been conducted approximately every five years since 1968 to assess the abundance and productivity of Trumpeter Swans (*Cygnus buccinator*) in North America. The 2010 quinquennial survey was conducted May 2010-January 2011 by numerous cooperators over vast areas of Canada and the northern United States. Methods in 2010 varied among regions, although within a given region the methods were similar to those used in previous surveys. Notable exceptions included a change from complete censuses to stratified random samples in Alaska and parts of Canada. Most cooperators performed aerial cruise surveys, ground counts, or some combination of the two. The continental estimate of Trumpeter Swan abundance in 2010 was 46,225, an increase of 33% since 2005 and the highest recorded since the surveys began in 1968. The estimated average annual growth rate in 2005-2010 was +5.8%, and in 1968-2010 it was +6.2% ($P < 0.0001$). Each of North America's three recognized Trumpeter Swan populations also reached record-high abundance levels in 2010. The 2010 abundance estimates (and percent changes from 2005) for the Pacific Coast (PCP), Rocky Mountain (RMP), and Interior (IP) Populations, respectively, were 26,790 swans (+7%), 9,626 swans (+84%), and 9,809 swans (+111%). The PCP, RMP, and IP comprised 58%, 21%, and 21% of the continental population in 2010, respectively. The percentage of the population as cygnets was 22% in the PCP, 34% in the RMP, 27% in the IP, and 26% overall. Results of linear regression indicated a significant long-term trend in the percentage of cygnets only in the RMP (+0.32% per year, $P = 0.02$). We recommend continuation of this valuable survey at 5-year intervals to monitor the status and trend of this recovering North American swan population.
