



# TRUMPETINGS

*Voice of the Trumpeter Swan Society*

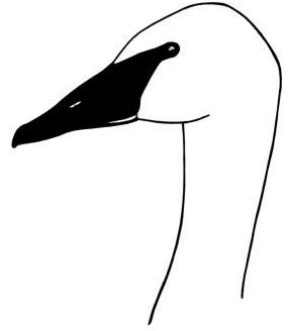
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Since 1968: Assuring the vitality and welfare of wild Trumpeter Swans

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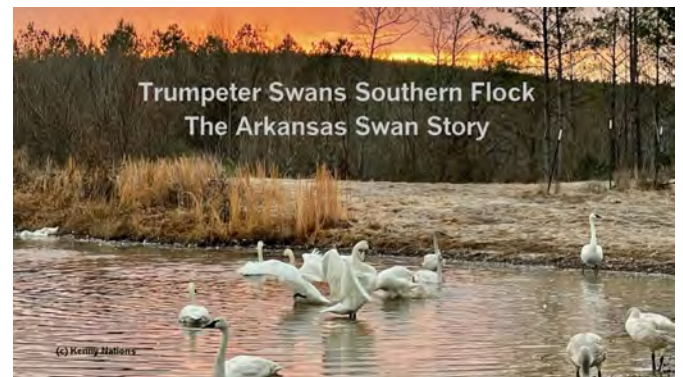
## You created new opportunities to learn about Trumpeter Swans!

Thanks to you, nearly 500 people registered for our first monthly swan webinars that began in October.

Even more people viewed the webinars which are posted on the Trumpeter Swan Society's YouTube channel. The first two webinars have been viewed by more than 1,000 people!

You created brand new opportunities for people to learn about trumpeter swans. Teachers, students, birders, swan-lovers and people like you who want to learn more about swans can now do it thanks to you!

Right: Thanks to your support, swan webinars are posted on our YouTube channel. #GivingTuesday gifts and Sweet Swan Family shirt sales (below) made sure science-based and fun information about swans were shared through webinars and swan videos.



Member Paul Moffett and his grandkids enjoy birding in Sweet Swan Family shirts

## Loss of a Trumpeter Champion



**JOHN EDGAR CORNELY, Ph.D.**

**1946-2023**

### **Loss of a Trumpeter Champion**

Sadly, one of our respected experts on Trumpeter Swans, Dr. John Edgar Cornely, 77, of Larkspur, CO passed away on October 13, 2023, after a lengthy battle with cancer.

John was a long-term member of The Trumpeter Swan Society (joining in the early 1980s).

After he retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), he served as our Executive Director from 2007-2013. Before that, John served on the Society board from 1993-1999. He continued working with us as our Senior Conservation Advisor and on our Conservation Committee after retiring as Executive Director.

Although John was a mammologist by education (his master's thesis on woodrats and his doctoral thesis on coyotes), he became a waterfowl biologist in 1978 when he accepted the job as Supervisory Refuge Biologist at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in eastern Oregon. That is also where he became a trumpeter swan enthusiast, as his duties included overseeing the restoration flock at Malheur. He left Malheur in 1981 to work at Finley National Wildlife Refuge, another waterfowl-focused job, but Malheur never left him, as he continued to be involved in Malheur issues throughout his life.

In 1988, he transferred to Denver to become Migratory Bird Coordinator in the Service's Mountain and Prairie Region where he led its migratory game and nongame bird programs.

Greater Yellowstone Rocky Mountain Population Trumpeter Swans in that region were under his purview and he was a leader in working towards their conservation.

He also was involved with issues concerning restoration of the High Plains flock located in South Dakota and Nebraska.

## Loss of a Trumpeter Champion

John was instrumental in the development of plans for four North American Waterfowl Management Plan Joint Ventures and represented the Service in the Pacific and Central Flyways.

He was a major participant in developing and updating past and existing Flyway Management Plans for trumpeter and tundra swan populations across all four Flyways.

John was also an avid historian of conservation matters, recording and archiving oral histories of the early years of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

In 2014, Dr. Cornely was awarded the Trumpeter Swan Society's prestigious *George Melendez Wright Trumpeter Swan Conservation Award* to recognize his lifetime contributions to Trumpeter Swan conservation. A highly respected colleague, John has been integral in the evolution, growth, and success of the Trumpeter Swan Society. He will be greatly missed.

The John Cornely Student Travel Scholarship Memorial Fund is being created to fund travel to a future Swan Conference for students studying swans. Helping students attend Swan Conferences was a particular passion of John.

## More cygnets arrived at the western winter swan home!

Five cygnets arrived in October at Zoo Idaho's winter swan home! The cygnets came from our captive pairs at Sunriver Nature Center and Juniper Preserve in Bend, Oregon.

The cygnets joined five other swans that arrived at the Zoo Idaho location earlier in 2023.

Thanks to you, the swans have a 3.5 acre winter home in a remote location to mature before their release into the Oregon wild in 2024.

Sadly, one of the cygnets contracted HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) shortly after arriving and died. Because of HPAI the other zoo cygnets that were to arrive this fall will arrive at Zoo Idaho's winter home in early 2024.

The plan is to release all the swans in early summer at Summer Lake Wildlife Area in Oregon.

Right bottom: Nine swans are now at the new Zoo Idaho winter home. Photo courtesy of Zoo Idaho

Below: Thanks to you, these Juniper Preserve cygnets and this year's Sunriver Nature Center cygnets were captured and taken to the new winter swan home. Photo courtesy of Juniper Preserve





# You tracked swans that winter in Oregon to their summer homes

**Thank you for supporting this important research project!**

## **Our Oregon Trumpeter Swan Migration Study Update**

By Gary Ivey

The numbers of migrant Trumpeter Swans moving through eastern Oregon have increased dramatically over the last two decades, particularly at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Summer Lake Wildlife Area.

To learn more about the origins of these trumpeters and to identify their breeding, stopover, and wintering sites, in February 2023 we marked 12 trumpeters with solar powered Global Positioning System (GPS)/ Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) neck collars. These GPS-GSM collars regularly log the marked swans' locations.

In February we marked five trumpeters at Summer Lake Wildlife Area and seven trumpeters at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. (May 2023 *Trumpetings*)

**For the five swans marked at Summer Lake, two summered in Alberta, two in the Northwest Territories, and one in Yukon.**

**For the seven swans marked at Malheur, four summered in Alberta, one in NE British Columbia and one in the Northwest Territories.**

All but one of the 12 marked swans have checked in recently showing their locations as of December 7, 2023.

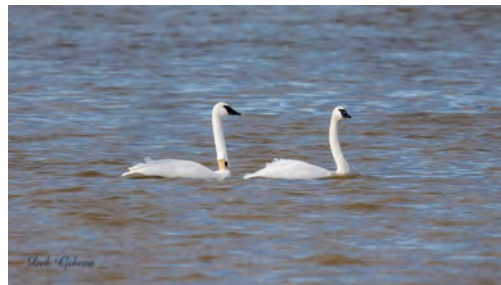
Three of the swans marked at Summer Lake are back at Summer Lake. Another swan marked at Summer Lake is now at Juniper Lake, Oregon, just east of Malheur Refuge. Another is still in southern Alberta.

Five of the original seven swans marked at Malheur have returned to Malheur. Another is still in south-central Idaho.

Check out the Google map (right page) to see all the travels this fall from summer grounds!

**More exciting news!** In November, Oregon swan 3@4 was spotted in Montana. This swan hatched in 2016 at Sunriver Nature Center and was released that fall at Summer Lake. Since then he has been reported in British Columbia and Montana, including on the Flathead River. He's quite the traveler and now has a mate!

November 11, 2023, from Ethan Lula, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, "I observed the banded swan 3@4 yesterday on Kearny Lake, just east of Eureka. He was among a group of 61 trumpeters (46 adults 15 cygnets) that moved on to the lake about two weeks ago, during a snowstorm. Pretty impressive spectacle."



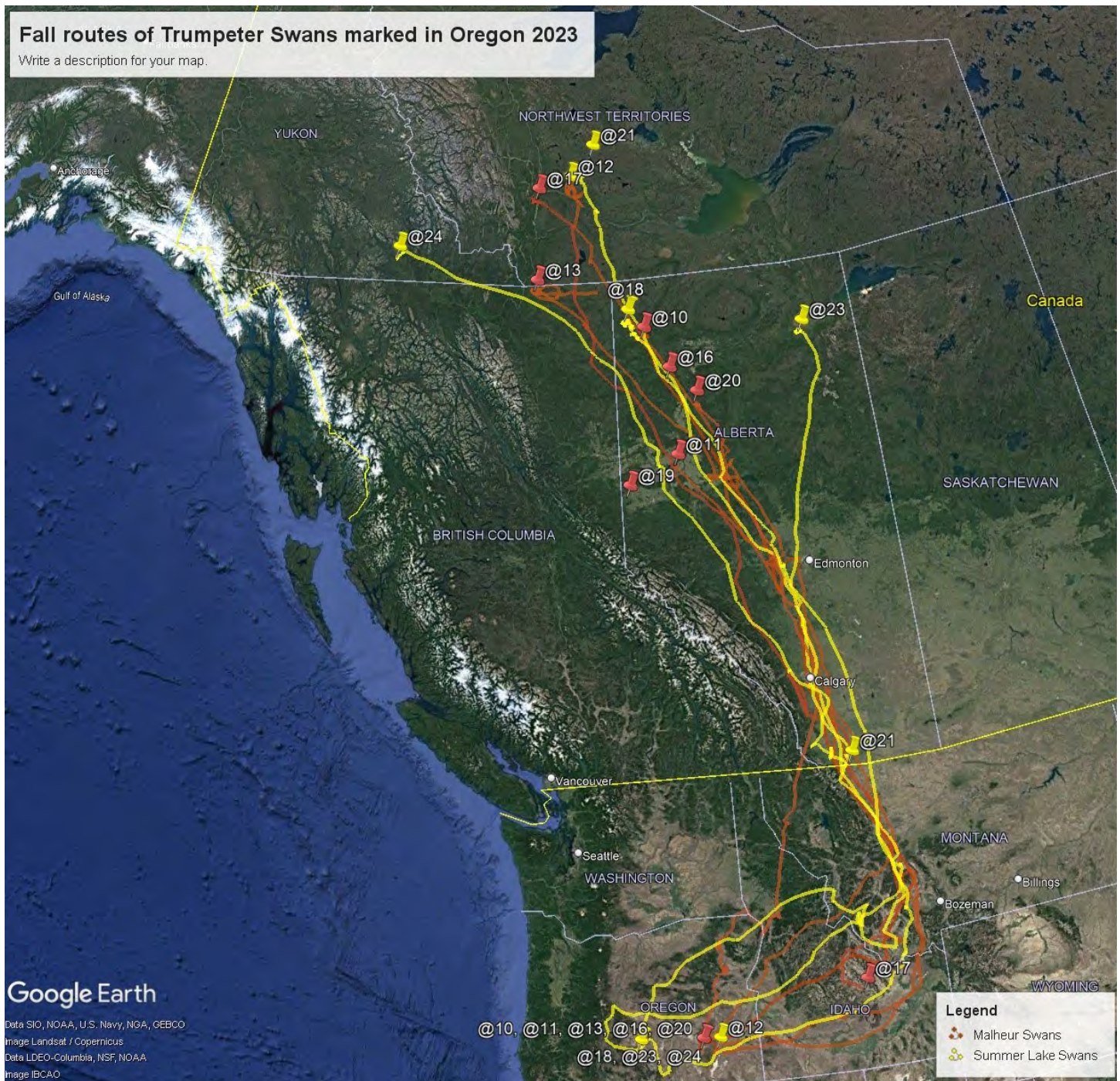
One of the GPS-GSM swans spotted in Alberta by Debbie Gibeau



Photo by Bob LeBlanc



# You tracked swans that winter in Oregon to their summer homes



Above: The fall routes from the GPS-GSM marked swans' summer sites to their latest locations as of December 7, 2023.

The red lines and pins are travel routes and locations of swans marked at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

The yellow lines and pins are travel routes and locations of swans marked at Summer Lake Wildlife Area.



## Is it a “cob” or is it a “pen” with a GPS collar?

A trumpeter swan with a GPS collar at Bear River National Wildlife Refuge in Idaho. You made sure its gender is now known!



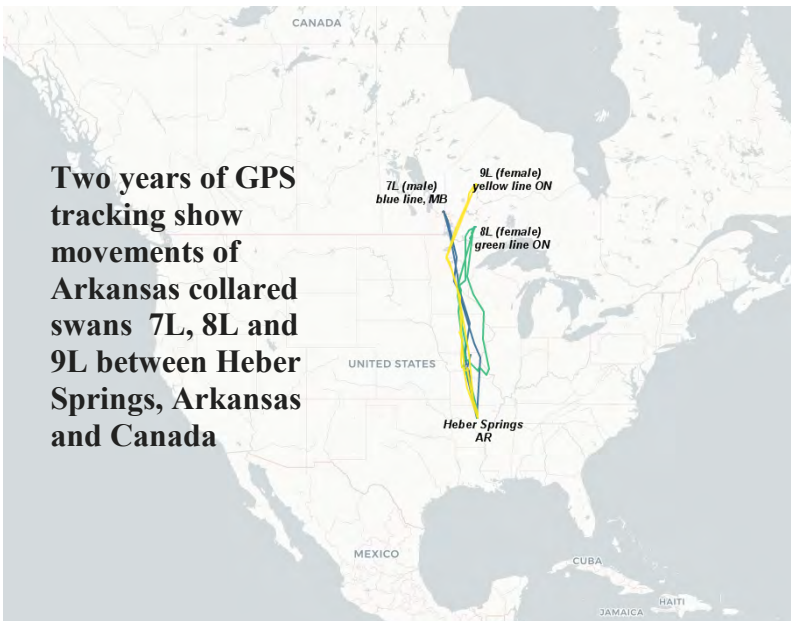
Thanks to you, research about western swans with GPS tracking collars got a boost! The gender of the western swans was not known at the time of capture for GPS collaring in 2020.

But you made sure the genders of 31 western swans being tracked are now known! Genetic testing this year identified nineteen of the swans as female (pen) and twelve as male (cob).

Now data analysis can be done to see if gender affected swan movements over time.

## The Arkansas - Canada swan connection

Two years of GPS tracking show movements of Arkansas collared swans 7L, 8L and 9L between Heber Springs, Arkansas and Canada

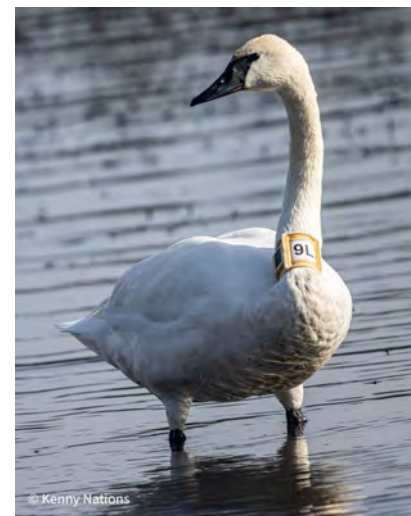
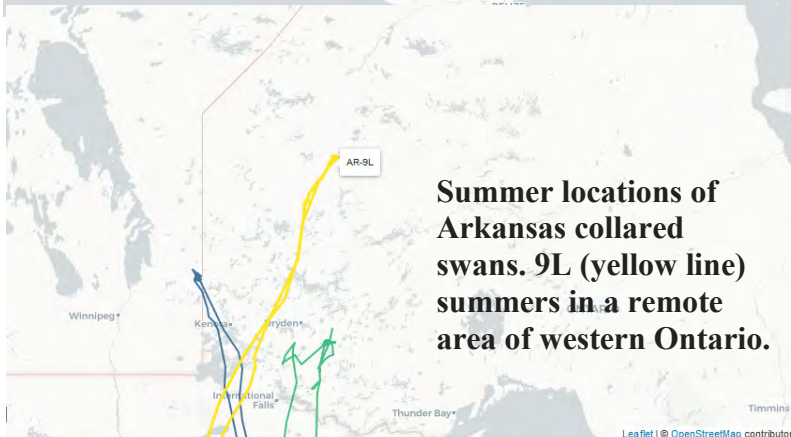


Thanks to you, in December 2021, three swans wintering in Heber Springs, Arkansas received GPS tracking collars.

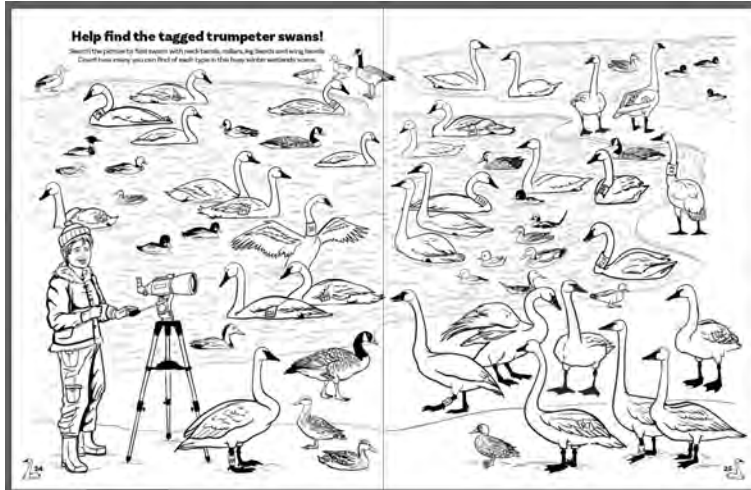
Since then, they have taken remarkable journeys. Thanks to you we know the three swans spend the summer months in Canada, with one swan in eastern Manitoba and two others in western Ontario.

Female swan 9L (below) arrived in Heber Springs, Arkansas for her third winter in late November 2023. She spends the summer in western Ontario.

Summer locations of Arkansas collared swans. 9L (yellow line) summers in a remote area of western Ontario.



# Education book for youth needs your help



Your gift of any size will help a child in Grades 3-5 learn about swans and wetlands!

**Help a child learn about swans and their wetland home.** Your gift is needed to finalize the creation of a Grades 3-5 activity book about swans, wetlands, and STEM careers that help nature! The book is based on Next Generation Science Standards. It is designed for home and classroom use. It will be free and easily downloaded from our website for anyone to use, enjoy and deepen their understanding of the world of trumpeter swans.

*Mail a check or donate securely online: [TrumpeterSwanSociety.org](http://TrumpeterSwanSociety.org) > How to Help > Education Programs*

**Yes!**

*I want to support education programs, like the youth activity book about trumpeter swans*

### Donate by check or credit card

*(To make a monthly gift through your bank or savings account, please use the form on the back page)*

Consider a gift from your DAF, IRA or stocks

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
**The Trumpeter Swan Society,**  
**12615 Rockford Rd.,**  
**Plymouth, MN 55441-1248**

OR

Donate securely **online** through credit card or ACH at [www.trumpeterswansociety.org](http://www.trumpeterswansociety.org),  
 How to Help > Education Programs

### My Gift for education programs about trumpeter swans \$ \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] One time [ ] Monthly

I prefer to give by:

\_\_\_\_ Check, payable to TTSS if one time or Void if for monthly

\_\_\_\_ Credit Card \_\_ Visa \_\_ MC \_\_ Discover \_\_ AmEx

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Card Expiration date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*If funds raised exceed the amount needed, your gift will be used where it is needed most.*



The Trumpeter Swan Society  
12615 Rockford Road  
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Web: [www.trumpeterswansociety.org](http://www.trumpeterswansociety.org)

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

Make a gift to help swans at  
“How to Help”  
Consider a gift from your DAF, IRA  
or stocks

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## Become a monthly donor for education programs!

### Monthly Donation Authorization Form:

**Yes, I would like to be a monthly donor for education programs**

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

Credit card (fill in other side)


Bank Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Platinum  
Transparency  
2023

Candid.

**Thank You!** (You can also directly sign up for online monthly ACH withdrawals for education projects on our [How to Help > Education web page](#)). If funds raised exceed the amount needed, your gift will be used where it is needed most.

**TRUMPETINGS EDITORS**

Gary Ivey, Jeffrey Nelson, Margaret Smith

Go to [www.trumpeterswansociety.org](http://www.trumpeterswansociety.org) for a listing of the Board of Directors and Staff