



TRUMPETINGS

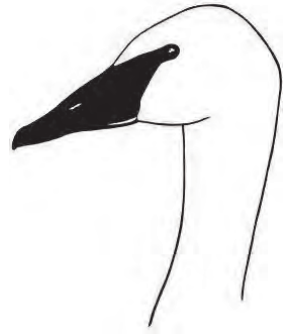
Voice of The Trumpeter Swan Society

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

VOL. XXVIII No. 2

SEPTEMBER 2018

Flash! Swan Updates

Flyway Update: Swan Hunt EA for the Interior Population: as of the time of publication of this issue, we have not received updates about the proposed Tundra Swan Hunt Environmental Assessment (EA) which we reported in the December 2017 *Trumpetings*. At the 2018 summer Flyway meetings for the Central, Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways, the Society recommended the Flyways consider revising the 1998 Interior Population of Trumpeter Swans Management Plan. We requested a framework be set up for revising this 20 year old plan in the immediate future including identifying stakeholders for input and review of a draft plan.

Iowa spring swan releases: TTSS participated in the Iowa spring swan releases. We thank the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for the invitation. More than 3,000 people of all ages participated in the swan releases in southern Iowa. Fourteen Trumpeter Swans from four zoos and two wildlife rehabilitation centers were released at three Iowa sites on May 10 and 11. It was an amazing, fun, and exciting experience!



Lake Icaria in southern Iowa was one of the May 2018 swan release sites.

Oregon swan shooting update: On June 22, 2018 Jordan Andrew Dupuis, age 22, was sentenced to two years' probation, two days in jail and 80 hours of community service for the 2017 Thanksgiving Day shooting death of the TTSS male breeding Trumpeter Swan known as "Chuck" at Sunriver Nature Center. In addition, Dupuis was suspended from hunting for three years, must forfeit his firearm and paid \$3,000 in restitution to The Trumpeter Swan Society and a \$1,000 fine to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The male swan was an important breeding swan for the Oregon Restoration Project. We appreciate all who donated to the Reward Fund which was awarded to the person providing the tip leading to the arrest and conviction of the shooter.

Ontario wintering swans: LaSalle Park at Burlington is home to the largest population of wintering Ontario swans which feed in its open waters. Early this summer, the Burlington, Ontario city council voted to spend \$4 million to build a floating wave break at LaSalle Park that would remain in the water year round. However, the Ministry of Environment said the city would need to add an Addendum to the Environmental Impact Statement if it wanted to do anything more expansive than replace the existing break wall that is removed in the winter (which allows wintering swans access to submerged vegetation). The Addendum could be challenged, delaying the project. The Ministry informed the city they need to implement a Stakeholder Committee that includes Ontario's Trumpeter Swan Coalition. ♦

Gifts help long term swan conservation

Gifts help assure the living legacy of healthy, wild Trumpeter Swans continues for future generations



The Trumpeter Swan Society was recently honored to receive a significant bequest from one of our members. At this time we do not have permission to share his name. His generous and caring gift helps assure that we can continue to do our swan conservation work on his and your behalf for future generations. He lived in a western region where Trumpeter Swans nest and winter. He loved photography, hiking, kayaking, canoeing and skiing. As one of his friends recalled, “I was on hiking and white water trips with him. What I will remember most about him is his boyish joy when he found various flora and fauna that took him by surprise. His face would light up with a wonderful smile and twinkle in his eye.”

Shortly before his passing, we were also honored to receive a significant gift from Dr. Arnold Fredrickson, a long time member. His gift will be used for swan research. He helped Three Rivers Park District, Minnesota, with Trumpeter Swan monitoring. He also travelled to Heber Springs, Arkansas and reported his trip’s swan sightings to TTSS, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and Three Rivers Park District. He was enthusiastic in his appreciation of swans and their return to Minnesota.

Please consider The Trumpeter Swan Society in your will and estate plans. Your gift, like theirs, will assure the long term vitality and welfare of wild Trumpeter Swans for generations to come. Thank you! ♦

New TTSS website



Our website has been revised and revamped. Check it out! You can now make your Trumpeter Watch reports and secure donations directly online.

Our “Swan Information” has an updated “Swan Identification” section including swan behavior, a “Swan Library” with updated links, swan restoration stories, papers and publications from some of our Swan Conferences, and much more!

“What We Do” highlights where your donations are put to work for swan conservation.

We offer our grateful thanks to Michelle Drewien of Zango Creative for her design and volunteer work on our former website over many years. Her 2009 design stood the test of time for nearly a decade— a true testament to her excellent web design skills. ♦

www.trumpeterswansociety.org

Check out our new website!

2017 Annual Report

Your generous support made big impacts on Trumpeter Swans in 2017

Your generous support in 2017 accomplished much in Trumpeter Swan conservation. We are pleased to report the positive impact you made to Trumpeter Swans across North America. Your gifts were put to work in our major program areas of Restoration and Management, Swan Health, Education and Research, and Advocacy. Thank you. We could not have done it without your generous and loyal support!

Restoration and Management

Oregon Restoration Project: 2017 was another year of success and setbacks in the Oregon Restoration Project, a partnership since 2009 between TTSS, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

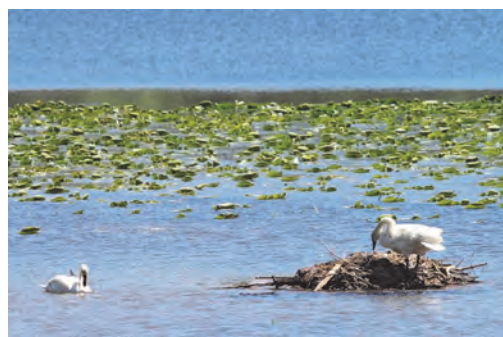
In September 2017, eight cygnets were released at Summer Lake Wildlife Area, bringing the total number of released swans to 112. A new swan pair nested on a private ranch and fledged two cygnets. A major setback, however, was the shooting of our male breeding swan on the Deschutes River in Sunriver, Oregon on Thanksgiving Day, 2017. The male bird suffered severe injuries and was euthanized.



Five cygnets from the Topeka Zoo were released in Oregon in 2017. Photo by Gary Ivey

Rocky Mountain Population: TTSS participates in the Greater Yellowstone Working Group which makes recommendations to the Pacific Flyway. We assisted with the 2017 update of the Pacific Flyway Rocky Mountain Trumpeter Swan Population Plan. The Plan does not allow swans with Alaskan genetics to be released into the Greater Yellowstone region. To accommodate this continuing restriction, we began discussions with the AZA Trumpeter Swan Species Survival Plan Coordinator & Studbook Keeper about genetically testing breeding zoo swan pairs that provide cygnets for restoration programs.

Yellowstone National Park: The Park currently has only two nesting pairs of Trumpeter Swans. One pair nested in 2017. In response to our 2016 advocacy strongly encouraging their planned fish control activities on one of the two swan nesting lakes be done outside of the nesting time, the Park complied and held off its 2017 activities until the swans left the lake later in the season. We began partnership discussions with the Park for a research study of swan habitat in the Park to assess reasons for recent swan declines and to determine if long term solutions are viable to maintain this iconic species in the Park.



Yellowstone National Park had one nesting pair in 2017. Photo courtesy of Yellowstone National Park

NAWCA Partner Project: In 2017, TTSS was a funding North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) partner of the Columbia Land Trust's Long Beach Peninsula Project in western Washington to protect one of the last undeveloped beachfront areas. The project area is important for wintering Trumpeter Swans and is home to three Endangered Species-Act species.

2017 Annual Report



Tundra Swans (left) and Trumpeter Swans (right) can be difficult to tell apart. Photo by Kurt Schwarz

Flyway meeting participation: TTSS is a member of the swan committees on all four Flyway Councils. At the 2017 summer committee meetings, we learned about a recently released Tundra Swan Hunt Environmental Assessment (EA) that proposed to eliminate hunter penalties for accidental shootings of Trumpeter Swans in the Atlantic and Central Flyways, and a proposed extension of Tundra Swan seasons in the Mississippi Flyway. We met with and encouraged both the Mississippi Flyway Game Technical Section (with oversight of swan management) and Non Game Technical Section (which worked to restore swans) to work together on swan related issues, including a response from the Flyway regarding the Tundra Swan Hunt EA. In October, TTSS offered written public comment to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service about this Tundra Swan Hunt Environmental Assessment and encouraged our members to comment as well.

Swan Health

In the **Pacific Northwest region**, we continued our partnerships with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, University of Washington, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service to collect swan carcasses and analyze swan deaths in northern Puget Sound (Washington) and Sumas Prairie (British Columbia). Of the 279 swans collected and analyzed, 37% were suspected lead deaths with another 38% from suspected powerline collisions. Judson Lake, straddling British Columbia and Washington has a known lead “hot zone.” In late 2016, thanks to our members, we helped fund renovation of the poles erected as a barrier for swans to keep them from the lead hot zone. The renovation was effective and the winter 2017 reports showed no swans were found in the exclusion zone on Judson Lake.

Lead Poisoning education efforts included the 2016 pilot program officially launched in 2017 in the St. Croix River watershed (Minnesota and Wisconsin). In 2017, more than 800 people pledged to use non-toxic tackle; we made numerous presentations across the watershed about lead poisoning as a health issue for swans and other birds. We also began discussions with local waste collectors to collect lead tackle during regional Clean Sweeps.



Keep Wildlife Safe
I pledged to use non toxic fishing tackle

Trumpeter Swan Society

People pledging to use non lead tackle received a free decal.

2017 Annual Report

Advocacy on swan issues across North America

TTSS weighed in on a number of swan health and habitat issues affecting Trumpeter Swans in North America including: commenting to FCC on Potential Elimination of NEPA Reviews for Communication Towers; a letter of support to fund the Iowa constitutional amendment passed overwhelmingly by Iowa citizens to support conservation but which has remained unfunded; met with Minnesota U.S. Senators to oppose inclusion of Section 9 in the Help for Wildlife Act (Section 9 would remove lead tackle from being regulated by the EPA under the Toxic Substance Control Act); worked with students at two universities to raise awareness about avian lead poisoning through their conservation class projects; encouraged Wisconsin *Enews* subscribers to contact their legislators regarding changes to regulations of Wisconsin's wetlands which would dramatically and negatively affect Trumpeter Swan habitat; signed on to the Together for Birds petition to United States legislators asking them to continue to uphold the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, The Environmental Protection Agency, The Endangered Species Act, Federal funding for birds; commented on the Tundra Swan Hunt Environmental Assessment proposed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Education and Research

Trumpeter Watch: Trumpeter Watch began in 2009 as a way to track existing and emerging swan wintering and nesting sites, especially in the Interior Population which had no migration traditions. In 2017 we received new sightings from Arizona and new areas in the Atlantic Flyway including Vermont, North Carolina, and Maryland. Trumpeter Watch reports from the Atlantic Flyway were useful in our 2017 discussions at flyway meetings about expansion of the Tundra Swan hunt season in the Atlantic Flyway where no Trumpeter Swan state restoration has occurred but where pioneering Trumpeter Swans are increasingly beginning to appear.



Arizona sighting of Trumpeter Swan. Photo by Lyndie Warner

Thanks to past and current donations to the North American Swan Fund we were able to help fund these research projects:

Iowa “Track a Trumpeter” Project: We partnered on an educational project, “Track a Trumpeter” joining the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa State University, Blank Park Zoo, and Friends of Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge. Nine swan cygnets were captured and collared with GPS transmitters (3 year life). In 2018 Iowa State University ornithology students will begin tracking and mapping how the cygnets use the landscape, migrate, feeding areas etc.



Nine Iowa cygnets were captured and collared late summer, 2017. TTSS is a funding partner. Photo by Margaret Smith

Nebraska Swan Breeding research: TTSS is a partner of a University of Nebraska master's student's research. The multi-year research is studying the breeding success of the Central Flyway's High Plains Flock to provide a baseline for swan managers. This is a first time look at the reproductive success of the High Plains Flock since their reintroduction in the 1960s at Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge in South Dakota.

2017 Annual Report

Outreach



TTSS participated in the 2017 Iowa swan releases.

TTSS published three print *Trumpetings* newsletters and continued regular *Enewsletters*. Our Facebook fans reached over 2,500 in 2017 with “likes” from 45 countries. In 2017, we updated the website from non-responsive to mobile responsive design. This was not a new web design but programming to make the current website (designed in 2009) mobile responsive.

It was a delight to meet with the public at events in Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Arkansas, Michigan, and Illinois and share the story of the return of the Trumpeter Swan your support makes possible. Through your ongoing support, we responded to many emails and phone calls regarding swan questions, issues and reporting.

Film Project: 2017 represented significant and meaningful progress on the “*Return of the Trumpeters*” film project. Steve Harryman, filmmaker, reported highlights included multiple trips to Iowa working with Dave Hoffman from the Iowa DNR and their swan release program. Topics of filming included public awareness of Trumpeter Swans, citizen efforts and multiple swan releases in Iowa state parks. Several interviews were conducted, including citizens, present and former biologists with the Iowa DNR and Iowa State University.

The Iowa release program involves a partnership with the Iowa DNR and numerous zoos, including Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Steve Harryman reports, “A trip there offered opportunities to film the zoo’s captive swan breeding program and interview the program’s Trumpeter Swan Species Survival Plan Coordinator and Lead Hospital Keeper, Tiffany Mayo. It is a fascinating program and very interesting to see how partnerships across the country are truly benefitting the swans.” The film project, “*Return of the Trumpeters*” is made possible through a generous bequest to The Trumpeter Swan Society by the Patricia and James Bigley Trust.

Financial Statements & Governance

Balance Sheet: At 2017 year end, TTSS had total net assets and liabilities of \$198,440. **Profit and Loss:** TTSS ended the year with a net income gain of \$12,738 for unrestricted projects, special projects and operations.

Balance Sheet December 31, 2017		Income Statement January 1-December 31, 2017	
Assets		Revenue	
Current Assets	\$161,275	Contributions, gifts, grants	\$101,922
Other Assets	\$ 37,165	Other	\$ 2,666
Total Assets	\$198,440	Total Revenue	\$104,588
Liabilities & Net Assets (Equity)		Expenses (Functional)	
Total Liabilities	\$ 0	Program	\$ 67,044
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	\$108,113	Fundraising	\$ 9,331
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 90,327	Management	\$ 15,475
Total Net Assets	\$198,440	Total Expenses	\$ 91,850
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$198,440	Net Income	\$ 12,738

2017 Board of Directors: Carey Smith, President, Washington and Montana; David Hoffman, Vice President, Iowa; David Myers, Treasurer, Idaho; Laurence Gillette, Minnesota; Deborah Groves, Alaska; James Hawkings, Yukon; Kyna Intini, Ontario; Gary Ivey, Oregon; Jeff Nelson, Montana, Carl Woodward, New Jersey. ♦

Ways you can support TTSS and enhance your tax deduction

You make thoughtful decisions about your charitable giving. You research your options, consider your capacity to give, and chose an organization with a mission you believe in with sound governance to put your hard-earned gift to work. That's why you and so many others have chosen to give to TTSS. Your thoughtful contributions work to assure the vitality and welfare of wild Trumpeter Swans. There are more options to give while enhancing your tax deductions.*

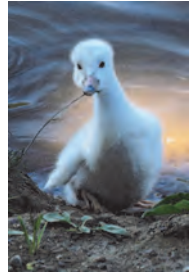


Photo by Kim Stevenson

A DONATION FROM YOUR IRA: If you are age 70½ or older, you can make a gift up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA each year. A married couple can make a gift up to \$200,000. An IRA gift will count against your Mandatory Minimum Distribution from your retirement account and won't go toward your Adjusted Gross Income.

And it's easy to do. Just tell your IRA plan administrator that you want to make a gift from your IRA to TTSS. They will send us a check and then report that gift as counting against your IRS required annual distribution in 2018.

APPRECIATED STOCK GIFTS: Your gift of an appreciated asset, often stock or mutual fund shares, is a valuable way to make a contribution to TTSS. By giving appreciated assets, you can reduce capital gains taxes on the appreciation and receive the current tax deduction on the full value of the gift.

CONSIDER A PLANNED GIFT: A gift through your will, trust or life insurance policy allows you to continue to protect the beauty you love. Your planned gift allows you to decide what your legacy will be and your impact on the future of what you value today.

We advise you to consult your attorney or a tax professional about how tax benefits may apply to your specific situation. **The Trumpeter Swan Society's tax identification number is 23-7220654. Call TTSS for more information.*

\$ _____ Area of Greatest Need

\$ _____ Membership *(if your mailing label includes "It's Time to Renew!" please renew today)*

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The Trumpeter Swan Society is a United States registered 501c3 non profit charity. Donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by United States law.

**OR make your donation or purchase securely
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In This Issue:

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- Gifts help long term swan conservation
- New TTSS website
- 2017 Annual Report
- Ways you can help TTSS and enhance your tax deduction

Is it time to renew? Look for “It’s Time to Renew!” above your mailing address.

For all you do for Trumpeter Swans, thank you!

Assuring the vitality and welfare of wild Trumpeter Swans for 50 years



Left: TTSS has a new website design and layout. Check it out at www.trumpeterswansociety.org

Center: Thanks to our donors we were able to participate in the 2018 spring Iowa swan releases attracting more than 3,000 participants of all ages.

Right: The 2017 Annual Report shares the impact your donations to our swan conservation programs made including funding swan research projects such as this Iowa “Track a Trumpeter” partner project.

Photos pages 1,6, 8 by Margaret Smith

Please consider a gift to TTSS through your will, trust, retirement account or life insurance. Together we can protect the beauty we love.

TRUMPETINGS EDITORS

John Cornely, Gary Ivey, Carey Smith, Margaret Smith

Go to www.trumpeterswansociety.org for a listing of the Board of Directors and Staff