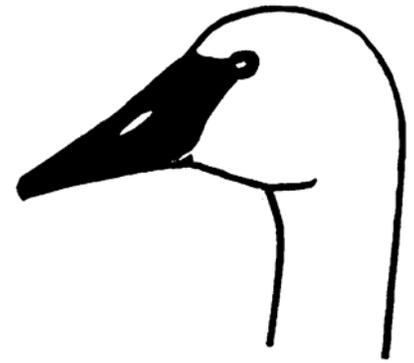




TRUMPETINGS

Voice of The Trumpeter Swan Society
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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, I want to sincerely thank our members for supporting TTSS with contributions, volunteer efforts, letter writing, and speaking out when the Trumpeter Swans need strong support.

It was wonderful to gather with many of you last month at our 20th Society Conference in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The breadth of knowledge and the "can do" attitude of those who are working to restore the swans were inspiring. The enthusiasm of private landowners who are restoring swans on their farm ponds in the Midwest was particularly exciting. We are looking forward to 2006 with anticipation – Trumpeters are continuing to reoccupy long-vacant breeding range. Although some nesting groups, like those in Greater Yellowstone, Oregon, and Nevada still face serious threats, we are hopeful that through our joint efforts we can make all populations secure. We are expanding our efforts in the Northwest and are hopeful that the difficult and complex effort to halt the lead poisoning in Washington and British Columbia will soon yield positive results.

Vigorous efforts to protect and expand winter habitats are still needed. The future of Trumpeter Swans throughout North America will not be secure until the swans regain use of adequate and safe winter habitat with long-term protection. As Trumpeters return, they are becoming a high-profile ambassador for wetland conservation and the restoration of rare species. They also are focusing public attention on the great benefits of partnerships between agencies and private citizens.

In this fall issue of *Trumpetings* we have included our combined membership renewal/Annual Appeal donation card and return envelope. The year on your mailing label indicates the year through which your membership is current. All contributions from U. S. citizens are tax deductible. We have also included the Holiday Gift list as another way to support the activities of your Society. Please note there are still some of the very beautiful James Meger *Fanfare* prints available.

Your financial support is essential to our programs. We would be most grateful if you will take this opportunity to make a special gift to TTSS to help us continue to promote the welfare of Trumpeter Swans in the coming year. Thank you!

Ruth Shea

TTSS WELCOMES NEW AND THANKS RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS - A hearty welcome to Ron Andrews (Iowa), Sumner Matteson (Wisconsin), and William Whitman (Delaware), who have recently become the newest members of our Board of Directors. They are filling vacancies left by our three out-going Board members, Ron Cordes (Idaho), Mary Maj (Montana), and Dave Weaver (Massachusetts). We are most grateful to Ron, Mary, and Dave for their years of service to TTSS as Directors. Though they no longer will be on the Board, they all have emphasized their desire to stay involved in TTSS efforts and help out where they can. Thank you for all you have done for TTSS!

Board members are not compensated financially for Board service. Directors donate their time and energy to help ensure that TTSS has sound administration and oversight. Board members act as our eyes and ears in their regions and assist with fundraising, policy and program developments, as well as with financial oversight. Their reward is the personal satisfaction of knowing they have helped make TTSS more effective in its efforts to benefit the swans. If you might be interested in serving on the TTSS Board in the future, please contact Madeleine Linck for more information.

We also sincerely thank our outgoing Board President, Sally Shanks (California), for her service and leadership during the past 3 years. Sally will remain on the Board for another term as Past President, and will help continue to strengthen our West Coast presence. Our new President Dale Becker (Montana) and Vice President Gary Ivey (Oregon) will be leading the Board during the next term. Thanks to you all for your work and many contributions to TTSS!

THE 20th TTSS CONFERENCE IN COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA, 20-22 OCTOBER - Over 70 Trumpeter Swan enthusiasts met in Council Bluffs, on the very western border of Iowa. Participants ranged from national wildlife refuge managers to state and provincial wildlife biologists to farmers and citizen volunteers. Co-hosted by Iowa's Trumpeter Swan Restoration Program, the Conference also received generous financial support from the Xcel Energy and Summerlee Foundations.

Liz Christiansen, Deputy Director, Iowa DNR, opened the Conference by highlighting the importance of man's

responsibility to restore a species once hunted to extinction, and, at the same time, to restore healthy wetlands. We heard updates from the Trumpeter restoration projects in Iowa, Ohio, Ontario, Wisconsin, Michigan, and South Dakota. Presentations were given on managing power line issues for swans, and the migration and winter survival of Trumpeters in the Interior Population. A discussion Thursday evening involved representation from all the IP Trumpeter Swan Programs and their perspectives on the need to and the potential to promote at least some winter migration.

Friday's Field Trip, guided by Ron Andrews, Iowa DNR, gave participants the opportunity to travel through the unique habitat of the Loess Hills along the Missouri River. With excited school children looking on, the Iowa DNR released a pair of swans at the Desoto National Wildlife Refuge, known for its migratory waterfowl on the Missouri River flyway. We toured the Refuge's visitor center exhibits and its floodplain forest habitat. The outing ended at the Hitchcock Nature Center to see migrating raptors and to enjoy a guided hike up a bluff trail to learn about grassland restoration.

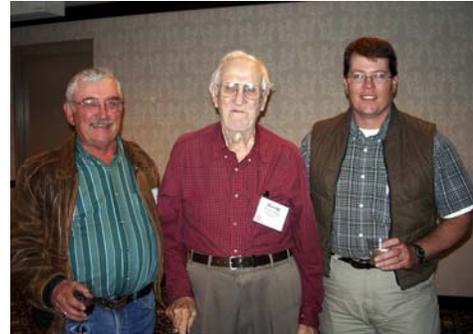
Saturday, we heard talks on the 2005 swan surveys flown from Alaska, to the Yukon Territory and on through Alberta to Manitoba. There were presentations on Greater Yellowstone, Oregon, and western Canadian Trumpeters as well as the lead poisoning crisis in Washington/British Columbia. Other speakers covered monitoring Tundra Swans and the comparison of Tundra and Trumpeter nests in Alaska. The conference concluded its paper sessions with citizen volunteers and private landowners sharing their enthusiasm and knowledge of monitoring Trumpeters in both winter and summer.

At the Saturday evening banquet, Director Harvey Nelson presented Awards of Appreciation to Ron Andrews for his 10 years working tirelessly to restore Trumpeter Swans to Iowa and to Director Dave Weaver who is retiring from the Board after 34 years of dedicated service. Swan volunteer Arnie Fredrickson then inspired us with photography and observations of swans nesting, migrating through, and wintering in Minnesota. President Dale Becker concluded the 3-day Conference with thanks to all attendees and the hope to see everyone again in 2007 at the 21st Conference, location to be determined!

Ron Andrews (left) and Dave Weaver (right) presented awards at the 20th Conference Banquet by Harvey Nelson (middle)



Managers past and present of Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge at the 20th TTSS Conference.



From left to right: Rolf Kraft, Harold Burgess, both USFWS retired, and current Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge manager Tom Koerner

PACIFIC COAST POPULATION NEWS -

Washington Lead Poisoning Response Continues -

Our volunteer crews, led by TTSS Board member Martha Jordan, have begun the very difficult work of radio tracking marked Trumpeters as they return to their wintering grounds in northern Washington State and adjacent British Columbia. About 150 of the swans that were radioed during the past 2 winters are expected to return this year. By documenting the timing of their use of various feeding sites and roosting areas, we hope to be able to further pinpoint where they are picking up the lead shot that is killing them. This winter, TTSS is coordinating the radio telemetry and carcass pickup, while the agencies focus on sampling suspect areas to assess lead shot densities and conduct aerial surveys to monitor swan distribution and abundance. As the winter proceeds, we will keep our TTSS website updated with the progress of this complex effort.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission honors Director Martha Jordan -

A Resolution honoring Martha Jordan for her 14 years of dedicated service to acquire and protect many acres of high quality wetland habitat on Long Beach Peninsula in Pacific County was passed 17 November 2005. The Commission dedicated and named a proposed birding and hiking trail through Leadbetter Point State Park and Hines Marsh the "Martha Jordan Birding Trail" in appreciation for Martha's passion and commitment to preserving and protecting the State's natural heritage. Well-deserved, Martha!

News from the Delta Farmland & Wildlife Trust -

The Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust July 2005 *Newsletter* reported that Trumpeter Swans and Snow Geese minimally used cover crops during Winter 2004/05 in Delta, British Columbia. Damage to perennial forage crops was generally lower this past winter than in previous winters. The wet weather prevented some farmers from harvesting 2004 season crops, so Trumpeters and Snow Geese were able to survive on about 450 acres of unharvested potatoes, rather than using the grass fields. Winter cover crops are important in protecting the area's soil from erosion during winter

rains. The Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust is a non-profit dedicated to promoting the preservation of farmland and associated wildlife habitat in the Fraser Delta through sustainable farming and land stewardship.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POPULATION NEWS -

Cinnabar Foundation Challenge Grant Match success!!- Earlier this year we received a \$2,000 challenge grant from the Cinnabar Foundation of Montana to help fund Trumpeter Swan nest habitat improvement in Montana's Centennial Valley. We launched an effort to raise the needed matching funds for the grant and so far we have raised \$3,310 in cash and pledges. This generosity will make it possible for us to work on two to three territories in the coming year. We will focus on improving historic territories on ponds and river oxbows west of Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge that are in mixed private and Bureau of Land Management ownership. There are about 30 historic territories in the Valley, and many have been degraded by drought and heavy grazing. Our restoration efforts will improve emergent vegetation, water supplies, and nesting islands. Thanks to all who contributed!

Restoration begins in Montana's Blackfoot Valley - Ten yearling and 2-year-old Trumpeter Swans obtained from Wyoming Wetland Society in Jackson, Wyoming, were released on a single wetland northwest of Ovando, Powell County, Montana, on 23 June 2005. Trumpeters were extirpated from this portion of western Montana over 100 years ago. As of 8th September, all 10 were still on the release site. The birds began moving to adjacent wetlands by September 11. As of 8th November, one was known dead, two had not been sighted since 19 October and 25 October, respectively, and seven were still known to be in the Blackfoot Valley. Migrant Tundras and Trumpeters are moving through the valley and the released swans are expected to migrate out of the Blackfoot with freeze up which should be very soon. The many private and agency partners involved in this project will be eagerly awaiting reports of the birds' movements and wintering areas. This project is attempting to rebuild swan use of excellent wetlands in western Montana. All the swans are marked with red neckbands with white codes and have a wing dyed pink.

Tom Hinz, Montana Wetlands Legacy

Rocky Mountain Population, U. S. Breeding Segment survey, Fall 2005 - The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported that observers counted 510 swans during fall of 2005, the highest count since 1992. The number of adults and cygnets in the Tri-state region increased 22% and 4% respectively, compared to counts in 2004.

The number of young produced in Montana was 25% higher than in 2004, but numbers of cygnets in Idaho and Wyoming were unchanged. For the 5th consecutive year, swans at Ruby Lake, Nevada, did not fledge young. Although the Red Rock Lakes NWR, Montana, continued to have drought conditions in 2005, dry conditions in other Tri-state areas were improved, compared to recent years.

ONTARIO NEWS -

Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre: The Yukon Experience Fundraising Raffle – The Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre in Midland, Ontario, has been a co-operator of the Ontario Trumpeter Swan Re-introduction Program since 1988. Trumpeter Swans in Ontario still face many challenges, including lead poisoning, injury, and loss of habitat. Currently, minimal funding is available for the many operating expenses. With generous support from several sponsors, the Centre is offering a fundraising raffle with incredible prizes. Three lucky donors will have a chance to win trips for two people to the Yukon in April 2006. Other raffle prizes include weekend lodging at local resorts, and birding optics. The drawing will take place at midnight during a special New Year's Eve event at Wye Marsh. For information on how you can support this fundraiser, please contact the Centre at P. O. Box 100, Midland, ON L4R 4K6, telephone (705) 526-7809 or visit www.wyemarsh.com or email info@wyemarsh.com.

NEW TTSS GIFT IDEAS – Here are some new ideas for your holiday shopping!

Trumpeter Swan note cards: We have new Trumpeter Swan note cards. Blank inside, the 10 stunning photos by David Sanders are of Trumpeters wintering on the Mississippi River in Monticello, Minnesota. Proceeds benefit TTSS and the Carol Ann Sanders Foundation that supports the Alzheimer's Association.

Trumpeter Swan hats: Bob Boock, TTSS member from Iowa, is selling blue caps made in Davenport, Iowa, featuring embroidered *Bring Trumpeters Back* below an embroidered Trumpeter Swan. The cost of \$15.00 includes shipping. Contact Bob at rbswan@fbcom.net to order one or send a note to the TTSS office and we will see that your order gets placed.

TTSS 3-color logo sweatshirts and t-shirts: New! Long and short-sleeve 100% preshrunk cotton white t-shirts with our blue-green-black logo. See the gift list enclosed in this issue of *Trumpetings* to order yours and help support the Society!

WANT TO BE A MEMBER? NEED TO RENEW? GIVE A FRIEND A GIFT?

Student/Retired__\$15 Regular__\$25 Family__\$30 Organization__\$50 Supporting__\$100 Life Member__ \$500 [to Endowment Fund]

Make check/money order payable to TTSS (Canadians please write "in US funds" on personal checks). Mail to:
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WELCOME ALL!

MASTERS THESIS – Christine Sousa recently finished her Masters of Science degree on the impact of Mute Swans in the Chesapeake Bay. The full citation is: Sousa, Christine M. 2005. Assessing the impact of mute swans in the Chesapeake Bay area of Maryland. M. Sc. Thesis, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. 111 pages.

THOMAS MANGELSON FRAMED PRINT DONATED FOR FUNDRAISING - World renowned wildlife photographer Thomas Mangelson has donated a photo of a Trumpeter Swan on the Firehole River, Yellowstone National Park. The photo is 20" X 30" and may be viewed on our TTSS website. The sale of this print will support the Washington Swan Working Group's Adopt A Swan program.