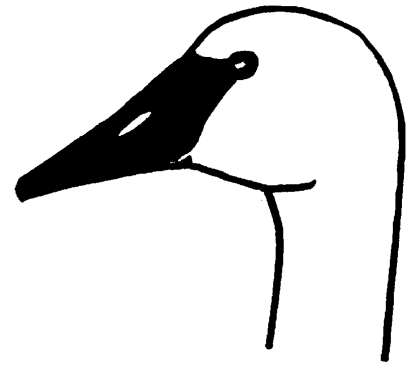


# TRUMPETINGS

Voice of The Trumpeter Swan Society  
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## Vol. XII. No. 3

## November

**YOUR SOCIETY AT WORK** - From time to time, one of our newer members will ask "What exactly does TTSS do? How do you operate? How do you spend the money you raise?" As the year draws to a close, we annually ask you all to help support our work through your membership renewals and annual appeal contributions. This year, we are also seeking your comments about Trumpeter Swan issues and TTSS operations to help us in our strategic planning effort. Therefore, we feel it a most appropriate time to provide an overview of our work, highlighting some of our recent accomplishments.

TTSS was founded in 1968 "to assure the vitality and welfare of wild Trumpeter Swan populations in North America and to restore the species to as much of its former range as possible." To accomplish that goal, we work in five core areas: 1) population security and range expansion, 2) habitat conservation and management, 3) advocacy and agency coordination, 4) public education and involvement, and 5) technical assistance and research.

With slightly over 450 members, three part-time staff, and 12 highly dedicated Board members, TTSS is small compared to many other international organizations. However, despite our size, TTSS has been the leader in shaping Trumpeter Swan management policy and restoration programs in North America during the past 30 years. We have been effective because our Board, staff, and membership have included most of the researchers and managers who have worked with Trumpeter Swans in the U.S. and Canada.

In addition to successfully implementing various projects, we work to improve communication among our members and with others outside TTSS so that our collective expertise can be applied effectively, on the ground or in agency policy decisions. We further this communication through *Trumpetings*, our newsletter, and *North American Swans*, our annual journal that publishes longer scientific, policy, and management papers. We also maintain a website for our overall organization as well as for the Washington Working Group. The Society holds a conference biennially and subsequently publishes a proceedings.

Because we are small and the work, particularly habitat conservation, is expensive, we work in partnership with agencies, other organizations, and individuals who share our goals whenever possible. Our daily work includes answering many requests for information on Trumpeter Swans, ranging from providing information to grade school classes, to providing highly detailed analysis on specific topics to assist management agencies. Our staff and Board also comment on many agency documents that impact Trumpeter Swans or their habitats, and attend key meetings. The Board meets quarterly by conference call to deal with administrative and policy issues. The Executive Committee meets by conference call between Board meetings. I work out of my home, and the Society contracts with Three Rivers Park District (formerly Hennepin Parks) in Maple Plain, Minnesota, for the part time administrative services of Madeleine Linck and Lynn Lovett.

During 2002, we made great progress on several important projects. Through our *Greater Yellowstone Trumpeter Swan Initiative* we have conducted the annual monitoring of over 60 nesting territories in Idaho, and improved water management or built nesting islands at five nesting lakes. In addition, we launched an effort to bring together Native Americans, agencies, and private landowners at Grays Lake NWR to improve water management that currently is destroying Trumpeter Swan productivity for almost one-third of Idaho's nesting pairs. We also helped develop a multi-partner proposal that will bring \$1 million to eastern Idaho over the next few years to improve Trumpeter habitat.

In Washington State, TTSS has spearheaded efforts to save Hines Marsh, on the Long Beach Peninsula. We are now moving into a second phase of habitat improvement and permanent land protection through acquisition by land trusts and agencies. Board member Martha Jordan has been instrumental in bringing partners together and moving this effort forward. TTSS was also deeply involved in a successful campaign to prevent installation of radio towers adjacent to a wetland used by swans and in ongoing improvements in the management of the Johnson-Debay Slough Swan

Reserve. TTSS has been very active with the coalition of agencies and concerned citizens working to prevent the continued lead poisoning of swans in Washington. Currently, TTSS is trying to raise \$40,000 to help identify the source of the lead poisoning, which has killed over 560 Trumpeters during the past 3 winters.

With support from the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we initiated a satellite telemetry project to identify the wintering areas and migration routes of Trumpeters that nest in western Canada. Results of this research will directly affect management strategies for Rocky Mountain Trumpeters. We began marking swans this year in the Yukon and hope to attract more partners and expand to other breeding areas next year. We were thrilled to link efforts with schoolteachers in Utah, who have made it possible for students to track the swans on their website.

To the east, TTSS activities included responding to numerous winter swan reports, educating the public about secure wintering and stopover sites in Arkansas, Tennessee, and other southern locations and working with private landowners who have potential winter habitat. We have been working with power companies in Minnesota to mark power lines, still a major source of mortality for swans. We also used Donna Compton's Memorial Fund to purchase a pair of Trumpeters that, hopefully, will provide many cygnets for future releases to promote migration in the Midwest.

So far this year, TTSS has raised almost \$74,000, primarily in grants for specific projects. To meet our FY2002 budget projections, we need to raise at least \$9,000 from membership renewals and our annual appeal. We have been successful raising funds for special projects, but it is a constant effort to fund general operations, made even more difficult by recent current events. TTSS needs your continued support and hopes you will renew your membership and make a contribution to the 2002 Annual Appeal. We also encourage you to help us continue to improve our operations by sending us your responses to the enclosed strategic planning questionnaire.

As always, we thank you for your support of TTSS.

Ruth Shea, Executive Director

**THE 19<sup>TH</sup> TRUMPETER SWAN SOCIETY CONFERENCE** – Plans are progressing for the 19th Society Conference to be held in Richmond, British Columbia, February 5 – 8, 2003. The Richmond area, south of Vancouver, should offer excellent winter swan viewing. There will be presentations

on all North American swans. If you would like to volunteer at the Conference, please contact Ruth Shea at [ruthshea@srv.net](mailto:ruthshea@srv.net). A Conference registration brochure is included in this issue of *Trumpetings*. The brochure is also available in electronic format. Please note, that to receive the discount registration rate, you must have your payment (check or money order only) in to the TTSS office by December 1.

**4<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL SWAN SYMPOSIUM (ISS) PROCEEDINGS** – The Proceedings of the combined 4<sup>th</sup> ISS/18<sup>th</sup> TTSS Conference held 13-18 February 2001 at Environmental Studies, Airlie, Virginia, will be available shortly. The Proceedings will be published in a special edition of *Waterbirds*, journal of the Waterbird Society. Copies will be available for sale at \$23 (US) or £15 (UK). To purchase a copy, please contact Mrs. Clare Lee at Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucester, UK GL2 7BT. Or, you may Email at [Clare.Lee@wwt.org.uk](mailto:Clare.Lee@wwt.org.uk); Telephone: 44-1453 891 900 ext. 258. TTSS has permission to publish the abstracts of those papers presented on Trumpeter Swans in the next edition of *North American Swans*.

**DIRECTOR JIM KING HONORED WITH DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD** – TTSS Director Jim King received a very special award on September 4, 2002, at a Washington, DC. ceremony. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton presented the award to Jim "in recognition of his outstanding service and notable achievements with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service on behalf of the North American continent's migratory bird resources." After 30 years of working for the Service, Jim retired in 1983, but has continued to remain extremely active in wildlife conservation. He and his wife Mary Lou also received the Chevron Conservation Award in 1989 for their many years of conservation work. As a wildlife biologist/pilot, Jim flew many wildlife surveys in the back country of Alaska. In 1968, Jim designed and conducted the first range-wide census of Trumpeter Swans in Alaska. The Secretary of the Interior praised Jim as "steadfast in his quest to ensure a place for wildlife in our modern society and he continues to be an inspiration to all who know him." Hearty congratulations, Jim!

**TRISTATE POPULATION OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRUMPETER SWANS DECLINE** - The annual US Fish and Wildlife Service September aerial survey of Trumpeter Swans breeding in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming found a substantial decline in 2002. While high winter losses of cygnets are common in

the Tristate Area due to poor winter habitat, this decline involved adults also. The 2002 survey counted only 273 adults and 53 cygnets in the Tristate Area, compared to 362 adults and 59 cygnets counted in September 2001. Compared to last year, the decline in adults was 46% in Montana, 17% in Idaho, 4% in Wyoming, and 25% for the entire Tristate population. Severe regional drought created extremely low water levels and very poor habitat conditions last winter. Although much of the winter was milder than average, it stayed unusually cold during late winter and spring. Continued severe drought conditions will further reduce winter habitat availability and again increase the likelihood of high mortality.

Ruth Shea

**TRUMPETER SWANS ON LAKE NIPISSING, ONTARIO** – Three breeding pairs of Trumpeter Swans were released in the Callander Bay area of Lake Nipissing in North Bay, Ontario, in May 2002. A pair of wild Trumpeters that began nesting there in 1999 were shot at this location in Fall of 2001. The Lake Nipissing Partners in Conservation helped to obtain the necessary permits and support to have the new pairs released. Funding was provided by the Trillium Foundation with many other supporters of the Project. Goals include protecting the swan nesting site by public education, increasing environmental awareness while still promoting swans to increase tourism in the surrounding communities. TTSS member Beverly Kingdon will give a Trumpeter Swan presentation at a November 15<sup>th</sup> fundraising dinner. To view photos and learn more about this Trumpeter restoration, please visit their web site at [www.trumpeterswan2002.tripod.com](http://www.trumpeterswan2002.tripod.com). Donations are always welcome!

**IN MEMORIAM** – Trumpeter Swan Society lost a strong supporter and contributor with the death of Bill Carrick, 82, of Ontario. During World War II, Bill joined the Royal Canadian Airforce and trained as a pilot. After the war, he worked as an assistant to Albert Hochbaum at the Delta Waterfowl Research Station and then became a free-lance photographer. He began to make wildlife movies for the National Film Board of Canada, the Carling Conservation Club, Ducks Unlimited, Disney Productions. He was the subject of a movie himself, called "Working for Wildlife". Bill helped with the making of the first IMAX movie. He became an aviculturist and Director of the Ontario Waterfowl Research Foundation, moving on to become a curator at Metro Toronto Zoo.

Bill Carrick's support for the Ontario Trumpeter Swan Restoration Program was extensive and generous. He made a Trumpeter Swan movie for

Scott Paper Ltd. which has been placed in every high school in Ontario. He raised and donated many Trumpeters for release in the Province. In 1993, he went to Alaska to help collect 50 Trumpeter eggs for the restoration program. These he hatched and raised under an experimental regime, providing university students with the opportunity to study developmental behaviour.

In 1965, Bill discovered that Canada Geese, on achieving flight would follow vehicles of many kinds including push bikes peddled fast downhill, motor bikes, trucks and fast boats. He made many fine movie sequences of geese and swans flying with boats. He taught Bill Lishman how to lead Canada Geese with an ultralight aircraft that later resulted in the movie *Fly Away Home*. The possibility followed to use an ultralight to lead Trumpeters on an induced migration to a wintering ground. For the first time this was successfully accomplished in 1998 with Wayne Bezner-Kerr as pilot.

In early October, Bill was fatally injured in a fall when he was dismantling a structure. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his extended family. Bill will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Harry

Lumsden

**TRUMPETER SWAN SCULPTURE DISPLAY IN MONTICELLO, MINNESOTA** – The city of Monticello, Minnesota, is home to a large flock of wintering Trumpeter Swans. The swans congregate on the Mississippi River between Monticello and Elk River from mid-November through March. Many wildlife viewers visit each winter to enjoy the gathering of swans. Now, to highlight the visiting waterfowl, a very impressive 20-foot high sculpture of three airborne stainless steel Trumpeter Swans graces the entrance of the Monticello Community Center. The city commissioned Parker McDonald, a local wildlife artist, to create the unique sculpture. More information can be found at [www.Monticellochamber.com](http://www.Monticellochamber.com).

Photo by Sheila Lawrence

**PROJECT ULTRASWAN BY ELINOR OSBORN** - Elinor Osborn, professional photographer and TTSS member from New York, recently published a juvenile literature book as part of Houghton Mifflin's Scientists in the Field series. She chronologically details the successes and failures of the Trumpeter Swan Migration Project of Environmental Studies at Airlie, where young Trumpeters were induced to migrate behind an ultralight aircraft in December 2000 from Upstate New York to Chesapeake Bay, Maryland. *Project UltraSwan's* story is enhanced with over 60 excellent color photographs, maps and tables of interest including selected sites for viewing Trumpeters. For more details, visit [www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com](http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com)



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will be an Affiliate,  
excepting  
life memberships which are  
paid only once.]

## **New Members**

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**Ron & Melanie Read  
Family**  
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**Bill Barthen**  
Hastings, MI

**WELCOME ALL!**

**TRUMPETINGS  
EDITORS**

**Madeleine Linck**  
**Ruth E. Shea**



issue of *Trumpetings* is our annual holiday gift list. Please note, we are now offering Karen Latham's painting "Daybreak - Trumpeter Swans." This print, featuring a pair of Trumpeters with five cygnets resting on the edge of a misty lake, was chosen as the 2002 Yukon Territory Conservation Stamp. In addition, Karen recently took third place in the Federal Duck Stamp competition. To view an image of the swan print, please go to [www.lathamstudios.com](http://www.lathamstudios.com)

**TRUMPETERS FOR SALE** - Dean Johnson of Wisconsin has five 2002-hatch full-winged parent-reared cygnets, 50% Alaskan stock, for sale. He is asking \$600 each, but will reduce price for one buyer. Please E-mail [dkjohnsn@execpc.com](mailto:dkjohnsn@execpc.com) or call (262) 537-2173.

reared pinioned 2002-hatch (1 male, 1 female) cygnets. She is asking \$425 per bird. Please e-mail [cmcdowel@netsync.net](mailto:cmcdowel@netsync.net) or call (585) 593-3766.

Visit TTSS' World Wide Web site at [www.taiga.net/swans/index.html](http://www.taiga.net/swans/index.html)