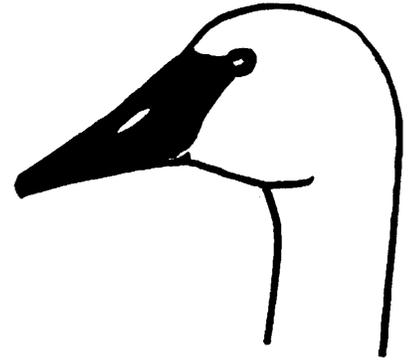


TRUMPETINGS



Voice of The Trumpeter Swan Society
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FROM THE PRESIDENT – Thanks to the members for your vote of confidence as I enter my second term as President of TTSS. As our program continues to grow in scope, I hope that our membership will do likewise. As a starting point, for the remainder of 2001, let each of us resolve to recruit at least one new member.

The TTSS business meeting held at the combined 4th International Swan Symposium/18th TTSS Conference resulted in much good discussion and suggestions for improving our programs and increasing communications with our members. The following are the initial actions that I will be reviewing further with the TTSS Board:

- Establish a Strategic Planning Committee to guide short and long-term program planning and implementation.
- Establish an Editorial Board to refine publication policies and preparation of *Trumpetings*, *North American Swans*, and other program materials.
- Establish a Budget Committee to coordinate with planning and fundraising.
- Reactivate the North American Swan Fund Oversight Committee.

You will note from the article on the North American Swan Fund that it increased by more than \$100,000 in 2000, primarily through the generosity of our own Jim King, a long-time TTSS member and Past President. Thanks, Jim, for your thoughtfulness! The fund is now being managed by The Minneapolis Foundation with prospects for substantial growth. We will need the guidance of the above Committee to develop criteria for the 4% annual payout to fund qualified projects.

As our programs expand and we enter into new cooperative ventures, it is essential that we do so in a systematic manner, and I will be counting on the Board and Staff to help lead these efforts. I also will be calling on TTSS members to help launch new activities and strengthen our support base during the next 2 years. Together we can make some major accomplishments!

Harvey K. Nelson

4th INTERNATIONAL SWAN SYMPOSIUM (ISS) AND 18th TRUMPETER SWAN SOCIETY CONFERENCE – What a memorable occasion for those who gathered at the Airlie Center in Warrenton, Virginia, in February! With about 140 attendees from 18 countries gathered to discuss swan research and management, the exchange of information, ideas, and good will was inspiring and energizing. It was an additional highlight to have John Turner, former Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a long-term member and Director of TTSS, provide well chosen remarks to open the Conference. Many of the Conference papers will be published in the Proceedings of the 4th ISS, which should be widely available early in 2002. TTSS will also publish abstracts of the Trumpeter Swan papers and poster information in future issues of *North American Swans*. The management and research priorities identified during the TTSS Trumpeter Swan workshop will be consolidated and presented in *North American Swans* and used in our program planning efforts. Many thanks to Dr. Bill Sladen and Donielle Rininger, Environmental Studies at Airlie, for hosting this event. Their months of hard work were greatly appreciated by all who attended.

NEW SWAN HUNT DECISION PROCESS — U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced that they will conduct another Environmental Assessment (EA) to re-evaluate management options for swan hunting in the Pacific Flyway, including under what circumstances they would allow legal hunting of Trumpeter Swans. This process is part of negotiated terms to settle the lawsuit that was filed last fall by Fund for Animals and others, challenging the Service's August 2000 decision to authorize limited legal harvest of trumpeters in Utah, Nevada, and Montana (see November 2000 *Trumpetings*). TTSS was not party to the suit, although we expressed several concerns with the decision.

Release of the draft EA is scheduled for April 20, followed by a 30-day public comment period. If you want to follow this issue closely, we suggest you contact USFWS, and ask to be sent a copy of the draft EA as soon as it is released. Make your request to: Robert Trost, USFWS, Division of Migratory Bird Management, 911 N.E. 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-4181 (robert_trost@fws.gov; 503-231-6162). Because the opportunity to obtain a copy of the draft EA and comment may be much reduced compared to last year,

TTSS will not be able to send its membership timely written information. If you want to be kept informed of the Board's comments on the EA on behalf of TTSS, or to give us your thoughts, please send us an email note. We will organize a contact list for those who want to follow this issue closely.

CONGRATULATIONS 2001-2003 BOARD OF DIRECTORS – With 122 ballots cast, Harvey Nelson was re-elected President and Gary Ivey elected Vice-President. Dale Becker, biologist with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in Montana, was elected as a new Director. Returning to the Board are Ron Cordes, Larry Gillette, Jim Hawkings, Martha Jordan, Jim King, Harry Lumsden, Mary Maj, Sally Shanks and Dave Weaver. John Turner from Virginia will remain as Director-At-Large. Thank you to all who took the time to include comments with the ballots. Suggestions for future Board members are always welcome.

NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST-

Hines Marsh

After 3 years of hard work, the Hines Marsh property vandalism case involving the destruction of TTSS' east dune/dam has come to a conclusion. The full amount, approximately \$41,000, of court-ordered restitution has been paid in full to TTSS, thanks to the efforts of Martha Jordan and attorney Jeff Eustis. Hines Marsh is an expanse of wetlands on Long Beach Peninsula in southwest Washington that has substantial potential for wintering swans and other waterfowl. TTSS' Washington Swan Working Group (WSWG) can now move forward with its partners on the construction of the water control structure at the north end of the marsh, funded by a grant from the USFWS North American Wetlands Conservation Act. The permits have been granted from all local, state, and federal agencies. Ducks Unlimited engineers have finalized the design and the structure will be completed by September of this year.

In addition, the WSWG was successful in securing a grant for Gray's Harbor Audubon Society (GHA) to purchase the 5-acre property surrounding the east dune. The WSWG is continuing efforts with its partners, GHA and the Columbia Land Trust, to help them secure other properties in the marsh, including 92 acres around the west dune. Thanks to all who have helped and continue to support our efforts to protect and restore this important wetland habitat for Trumpeter Swans.

Major lead poisoning die-off

The largest known die-off of Trumpeter Swans from lead poisoning has occurred in an area that spans the Washington – Canada border just north of Bellingham, Washington, into the Sumas Valley of British Columbia. The final tally will not be known for several weeks after all birds have migrated north. To date, more than 200 dead swans have been collected. This is about 1% of the total Pacific Coast Population of trumpeters and

more than 23% of the local wintering population. Similar, but smaller (100 birds) die-offs occurred last year and in 1992. The source of the lead shot has still not been determined, but several wetland areas are suspect on both sides of the border.

TTSS has been instrumental in bringing wildlife agencies together to work toward a solution to the crisis. Research needs and funding are a prime concern for next winter and the planning process is now underway. An aerial survey has been flown and full necropsies will be done on the carcasses. We are assisting the agencies in logistics and funding. TTSS is very grateful to Society members Claudia and Roger Salquist for their generous donation towards funding this work. A special thank you to TTSS members Sue and Mike Murphy and daughter Sheena of the Pilchuck Valley Wildlife Rehabilitation Center for their efforts in pick-up and evaluation of dead and dying birds. They are volunteers who have done a great job doing a miserable task.

Johnson/DeBay Swan Reserve dedication

The Johnson/DeBay Swan Reserve in the Skagit Valley of northwest Washington was officially dedicated on January 27, 2001. Over 140 people attended the ceremonies, including prominent political leaders and officials from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Many swans provided a spectacular viewing experience as they flew low over the crowd. Over 500 swans were observed along with 50,000 ducks, Canada Geese, and four Bald Eagles.

The Reserve is a model program for the WDFW land stewardship program. It provides important swan habitat in the Valley and a quality viewing experience for the public. TTSS is one of five volunteer organizations that help support and work at the Reserve. Other members are Washington Waterfowl Association, Skagit Audubon Society, Ducks Unlimited, and Pilchuck Valley Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. TTSS hopes this will be the first of many areas dedicated to providing winter habitat for swans, as well as opportunities for public viewing.

Radio towers and swans

A new threat to wildlife habitat, especially swans, has residents in Snohomish County, Washington, very concerned. A proposal to build eight 460-foot radio transmission towers with guy wires has been submitted to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The proposed site is located within a ½ mile of Bob Heirman County Wildlife Park, an important roost site for wintering trumpeters and other waterfowl. It is directly in the flight path to feeding areas in the Snohomish Valley.

TTSS is helping to provide information to the FCC and other agencies with authority over this project. We believe that when the facts are brought to their attention, this site will be found unsuitable for the project. If you have knowledge of tower issues and effects on migratory birds or other wildlife please contact Martha Jordan at swaninfo@swansociety.org or (425) 787-0258.

IN MEMORIAM – R. H. MACKAY – TTSS received word of the passing of TTSS Charter Member Ron Mackay last July in British Columbia. Ron retired from the Canadian Wildlife Service in 1978, but continued to work for the welfare of trumpeters. There will be a more detailed commemorative article about Ron in the next issue of *North American Swans*. The TTSS Board and staff express very sincere condolences to Ron's family.

NORTH AMERICAN SWAN FUND - In 1991, TTSS established the North American Swan Fund (NASF) with the vision that it would become a permanent fund with the specific purposes "to fund research, education and habitat protection/improvement, including land purchase, for the benefit of North American swans".

That vision is on the way to becoming reality. The NASF grew substantially in 2000 and ended the year with a balance of \$141,530.56. During 2000 it was incorporated into The Minneapolis Foundation, a non-profit community foundation, which will manage the Fund. The Minneapolis Foundation can provide professional services to donors by arranging bequests, gifts of appreciated stock and other complex donations.

TTSS can receive an amount equal to 4% of the Fund each year for its programs of education, research, and habitat enhancement. The Minneapolis Foundation will receive 1.5% for management expenses with any excess over expenses going to their social programs. Earnings above the 5.5% described above will be added to the principle, thus assuring the Fund stays ahead of inflation and continues to grow and benefit North American swans in perpetuity. Funds managed this way have been doubling in about 10 years.

The TTSS Board will be developing a plan to start using the 4% annual payout this year. As the fund grows, we will be able to fund graduate student research such as learning more about the agricultural lands where many swans winter, population dynamics indicated by long term data sets as from the Alaska Trumpeter Swan Census, satellite telemetry studies of local and long distance movements, and the role of nesting territory size in limiting population growth.

The TTSS Board has requested that the NASF be invested in a "Socially Responsible" manner. In general, this means no investments in corporations associated

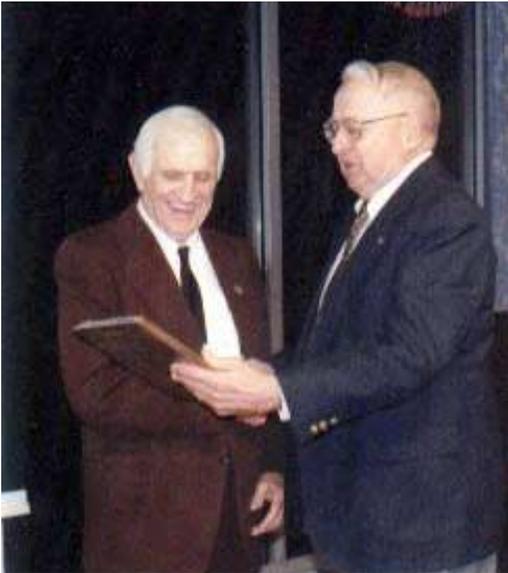
with manufacturing weapons, gambling, tobacco, alcohol, environmental destruction, poor or abusive employment practices and such, but support of companies that meet standards for socially responsible products and practices. Socially responsible investing is a recent development (10 to 15 years) but is already extensive enough to encourage companies with a good rating and to cause self-examination by some companies with a poor rating. While it is possible that Socially Responsible investing could at times result in reduced investments earnings, this has not been the case in the recent past at The Minneapolis Foundation. The Minneapolis Foundation has placed the NASF with Domini Social Investments, a company with assets of \$1.8 billion (see domini.com on the Web).

TTSS also has a Merrill Lynch account where our shorter-term assets for our annual operations and programs are held in a conservative growth fund with no social restrictions. TTSS members can designate whether they prefer their gift to go to the NASF, or to the Merrill Lynch account for regular TTSS programs. If you would like more information on the possible options, please contact the TTSS office. You may also call The Minneapolis Foundation directly at (612) 672-3878 or see their web site at www.mplsfoundation.org

Jim King

17th PROCEEDINGS NOW AVAILABLE – The Proceedings and Papers from the 17th TTSS Conference held September 1999 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, is now available as a special edition of *North American Swans*. Conference attendees who prepaid should have already received a copy in the mail. All current Society members are entitled to a copy, but due to postage costs, we will send to only those members who request one. This is a compilation of 35 papers with special focus on the Rocky Mountain Population. Papers on the Pacific and Interior Populations as well as techniques and theory are also included. So, drop a line, send an e-mail or call to request your copy. But first, check your mailing label to see if your membership is up to date! Others may purchase the Proceedings for \$20.00 (postage included).

SWANS IN CHINA – Carl D. Mitchell, former TTSS Director, recently edited an English translation of *Swans in China* authored by Ma Ming and Cai Dai and translated by Edith L. Kao. This soft cover edition presents information about the history, habitats, and biology of swans at Bayinbuluke Nature Preserve in northwestern China. In addition, the work contains observations on other waterfowl species as well as swan diseases and mortality. The 105-page text is augmented with color photos and numerous line drawings. A limited number of copies are available by contacting Carl at carl_mitchell@fws.gov or the TTSS office. As a side note, Carl recently moved from Alaska to Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Idaho.



HAROLD AND RUTH BURGESS HONORED - At the 4th ISS/18th TTSS Conference Banquet held in Airlie, Virginia, TTSS recognized the many lifelong contributions of Harold H. and Ruth L. Burgess to the conservation of waterfowl with special emphasis on the restoration and management of Trumpeter Swans. In the photo above, President Harvey Nelson presents the Society's award to Harold, Past President and Director of TTSS. Retired from USFWS, Harold resides in Weslaco, Texas. Ruth Burgess passed away in 1998. She edited and co-authored many papers on Trumpeters Swans with Harold. Also at the Banquet, TTSS presented Harold with the Wildlife Cooperator Award on behalf of the Nebraska National Forest. Daughter and TTSS member Mary Bote attended the Banquet to join in the recognition ceremony. Congratulations, Harold!

DR. WILLIAM J. L. SLADEN RECOGNIZED - Dr. William (Bill) J. L. Sladen was honored at the 4th International Swan Symposium Banquet for his many years of working tirelessly for the welfare of swans around the world. On behalf of his many friends and colleagues, Dr. Eileen Rees, Swan Specialist Group coordinator, presented Bill a gold plated swan egg and an original watercolor of Bewick's Swans by well-known zoologist artist Dafila Scott. Bill is Professor Emeritus, Johns Hopkins University, and Director of Environmental Studies at Airlie. He pioneered in the techniques of capturing and banding swans and, for the past 10 years, has been instrumental in developing a process to reestablish migratory traditions in geese and swans with the use of ultralight aircraft (see article below).

ULTRASWANS UPDATE - The Trumpeter Swan Migration Project of Environmental Studies at Airlie (ESA), Virginia, is asking the public to help monitor banded Trumpeter Swans that should soon begin migrating north from Maryland's Chesapeake Bay. Last October, ESA biologists trained a group of 14 young swans to follow ultralight aircraft at a New York

Department of Environmental Conservation facility north of Batavia, New York. These swans were then shown a predetermined migration route from western New York through central Pennsylvania to Chesapeake Bay. The swans arrived at their wintering destination at the Wildfowl Trust of North America in Grasonville, Maryland, on 18th January 2001.

The swans are marked with yellow collars fitted with radio transmitters. Although the birds will be followed with aerial telemetry, on-the-ground reports from the public will be a great help as the birds move north without the help of the ultralight. Donielle Rininger, lead biologist, requests that the public not approach the swans in any way, but observe the birds from a distance. Observations may be phoned toll-free to (888)-264-4728. The collars are imprinted with black codes with the alpha "R" followed by two numerals.

The Trumpeter Swan Migration Project works in cooperation with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, The Wildfowl Trust of North America, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and Operation Migration, with kind assistance from the Council of Chiefs for the Tonawanda Band of Senecas. Updates for this project maybe viewed at the project web site www.trumpeterswans.org

TRUMPETER SWAN DISPLAY AT SQUAW CREEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE - A special Trumpeter Swan display will open April 21st at Squaw Creek NWR in Mound City, Missouri. A mounted male trumpeter will be part of a display educating refuge visitors about Midwest Trumpeter Swan restoration. The exhibit is funded in part by donations to TTSS given in memory of Donna Compton, Hennepin Parks Wildlife Technician and Trumpeter Swan Society Administrative Assistant.

This swan was collared 59NC in 1989 by Hennepin Parks wildlife staff in Hennepin County, Minnesota. He was reported with five swans in Osage County, Oklahoma in February 1990 and again the following winter, with a new mate and cygnet on Manford Lake near Tulsa. In 1992, 59NC and family began migrating to a 10,000-acre cattle ranch in Pawhuska, Oklahoma. Arriving each December, they fed on aquatic vegetation in the numerous ponds and ate corn provided by the ranch family. In December 1994, 59NC, his mate, and three cygnets made a stopover at Squaw Creek NWR before continuing south. The pair migrated safely with a brood of seven cygnets in winter 1997/98. Each spring, the swans returned to their nesting marsh on a private farm in Buffalo, Minnesota. But, one foggy morning in May 1999, while his mate was incubating on the nest, 59NC flew into a nearby power line and was killed.

The establishment of migration traditions to safe wintering sites remains a challenge to trumpeter restoration. 59NC was successful. Local residents and wildlife personnel helped to monitor the swans. 59NC's story was even told in *Swans of the World* by Alice Price, TTSS member from Tulsa. As Alice declared, "he certainly was a grand bird!"

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE ANNUAL APPEAL! – TTSS would like to thank the following members for designating their contributions to the Annual Appeal, going beyond their annual dues to help fund operations and special projects. A total of almost \$5,700.00 was received in donations.

Dave & Jan Ahlgren
Gisele Barrett
Robert Boock
Elmer Borstad
Lucy Braly
Sheryl Butler
Jack Buzek
W. H. Carrick
Michael D. Cavanaugh
Richard & Mary Ann Cuneo
Margaret Davis
Timothy & Carol Dyhr
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Kenneth Seyffert
Ruth Shea & Rod Drewien
Mr. & Mrs. E.A. Sheehan
James H. Snowden
Scott & Cindy Snyder
Lynn M. Spicer
Mrs. Walter Spofford
Eugene Stroops
Bob Uhl
David & Kitty Weaver
Ramon D. Whitney Family

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION – TTSS recently awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to Michelle Hudolin of Midland, Ontario. Harry Lumsden, Coordinator of Trumpeter Swan restoration in Ontario, expressed his appreciation for Michelle's dedication in caring for the swans at Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre. Michelle's careful daily inventories of the swans have been most helpful to the efforts of the restoration program.

YUKON'S CELEBRATION OF SWANS April 14-22, 2001 – Join in viewing the great spring gathering of Trumpeter and Tundra Swans on M'Clintock Bay, just south of Whitehorse in the Yukon Territory. There will be a week of lectures, guided tours, family activities and interpretive programs at the Swan Haven Interpretation Centre. For more program information, contact the Wildlife Viewing Program at (867)-667-8291 or e-mail todd.powell@gov.yk.ca. You may also check out TTSS' web site for the calendar of events.

GRANDE PRAIRIE SWAN FESTIVAL – Come welcome back the swans to Grande Prairie, Alberta! The third Annual Swan Festival will be held April 28 and 29th at Saskatoon Island Provincial Park. Natural history displays and slide shows will be presented on Saturday April 28 at the Trumpeter Motor Inn. There will be field trips on Sunday to view the migrating Trumpeter and

Tundra Swans. For more schedule information, please call (780)-766-2636.

TRUMPETER SWAN NECKTIES - TTSS has a new gift item for sale, thanks to the creativity of TTSS member, Jim McCampbell. After hearing Dr. Bill Sladen's wish for a Trumpeter Swan necktie at the 17th TTSS Conference, Jim arranged to have a necktie designed and produced with two Trumpeter Swans flying on a background of navy blue. Jim brought his box of ties to the ISS/18th Conference and we are now selling the remaining ties for \$20.00 plus \$4.00 shipping. Proceeds will go to the Society. An unusual gift idea and a great way to support the Society! Thanks, Jim, for your thoughtful donation.

E. B. WHITE CLASSIC ADAPTED TO FILM – The beloved childrens book, *The Trumpet of the Swan*, will debut as an animated film from TriStar Pictures on May 11, 2001. Directed by Richard Rich and Terry L. Noss, it is highlighted by voices from an all-star cast and music by artists including Little Richard. According to a press release from mPRm Public Relations, the film has already been given several parenting awards. Early on, TTSS provided the production staff with several pieces of biology background on Trumpeter Swans.

WANT TO BE A MEMBER? NEED TO RENEW? GIFT SUGGESTION?

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Student/Retired__\$15 Regular__\$25 Family__\$30 Organization__\$50 Supporting__\$100 Life Member__\$500

Make check/money order payable to TTSS (Canadians please write "in U. S. funds" on personal checks). Mail to:
The Trumpeter Swan Society, 3800 County Road 24, Maple Plain, Minnesota 55359

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[Editor's Note: Any persons or
organizations paying \$100 or
more per year for membership
will be an Affiliate, excepting
life memberships which are
paid only once.]

New Members

Susan Alfred
Gainsville, VA

Susan Cygnet
Minneapolis, MN

Ole Hansen
Seneca, NE

Thomas Hemker
Boise, ID

Perry & Mavis Linder
Heber Springs, AR

Sharon Mick
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Chuck Munday
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Christopher Noonan
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Lima, MT

Vicki Rood
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Yasuko Suzuki
St. Anthony, MN

Darlene Wamhoff
Foreston, MN

WELCOME ALL!

TRUMPETINGS EDITORS

Madeleine Linck
Ruth E. Shea

TRUMPETER SWANS WANTED: Two cooperators with the Iowa Trumpeter Swan Restoration Program are looking to each purchase adult male trumpeters. Another private propagator in Illinois would like to buy a pair of trumpeters. Please contact Dave Hoffman at David.Hoffman@dnr.state.ia.us or call 641-357-3517.

SWANS FOR SALE: P. Neumann, TTSS member from Colorado, is selling two mature Black-Necked female swans at \$1,000 each. Also, (1) mature female Black Swan and (1) 2-year-old male Black Swan at \$300 each. Pinioned. Please call 303-666-8885 or e-mail (with subject "SWAN") to neumannp1@aol.com