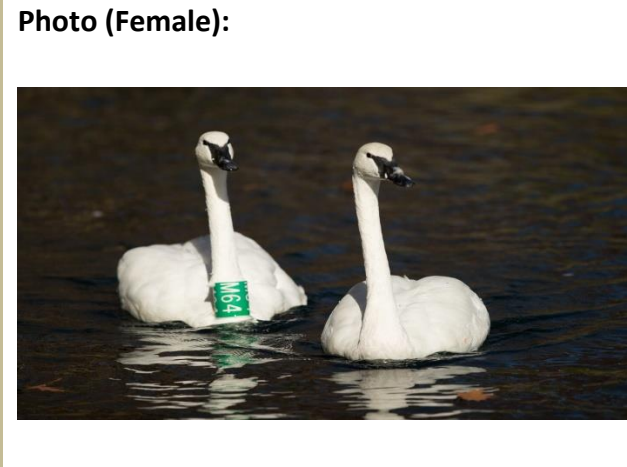


Species Fact Sheets

Order: Anseriformes
Scientific Name: Cygnus Buccinator

Family: Anatidae
Common Name: Trumpeter Swan

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Asia North America Neotropical
 Africa Australia Other Widespread across northern North America from Alaska to central Canada and south to Idaho and Illinois.

Habitat: Forest Desert Grassland Coastal
 Riverine Montane Other By lakes, ponds and marshes

Circadian Cycle: Diurnal Crepuscular Nocturnal Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

Cold Tolerance: To 70° F To 60° F To 50° F To 40° F
 To 30° F To 20° F Other As long as swimming water is available they can handle most temperatures- very cold tolerant species

Heat Tolerance: To 30° F To 50° F To 70° F To 90° F
 To 110° F Other As long as swimming water and shade opportunities are available they can handle most temperatures

Diet: Frugivore Carnivore Piscivore Insectivore
 Nectivore Omnivore Folivore Other (Add Below)

Captive Dietary Needs:
 Commercial waterfowl diet, greens, (smelt and insects as supplements)

Life Expectancy in the Wild: Males: 15-20 years Females: 15-20 years

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: 20-25 years Females: 20-25 years

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BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity: Males: 3-6 years Females: 3-6 years

Courtship Displays: Courtship begins in mid-January and continued until mid-March. Behaviors often include head bobbing and wing quivering as the male and female face each other. After copulation both swans in the pair extend their wings and call in unison. Trumpeter Swans mate for life.

Nest Site Description: Nest can be six feet in diameter, usually made of sticks or grasses, on banks or islands near water. Nesting begins in late April, early May

Clutch Size, Egg Description: 4-9, dull creamy white eggs (4 ½" long, 3" wide) laid at 2-day intervals

Incubation Period: 32-40 days (34 day average) **Fledgling Period:** 84-120 days

Parental Care: The female Trumpeter Swan is more efficient in gathering materials and constructing the nest. Males do not assist in incubation but will sit on and guard the nest. The male will vigorously chase away intruders and perform a "triumph display" where it quivers their feathers and call loudly when the intruder is repelled. Trumpeter Swans frequently turn their eggs. For the first few weeks of life the cygnets are closely guarded. When swimming the female leads the cygnets and the males follows behind. A parental "puddling" behavior is described as rapid paddling of the feet to stir up food from the pond bottom for the short-necked, weak-legged cygnets.

Chick Development: Cygnets normally hatch at the same time and weigh around 7 ounces. They rely on high protein food that will gradually shift to a vegetable diet. Juveniles have a pink-fleshy bill with greyish feet, legs and plumage. Cygnets remain with their parents through their first winter then they are driven away by their parents. They remain with their siblings until about 2 years of age when they then seek mates.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Encompass territories spanning 70-400 acres with pairs separated by at least half a mile.

Social Structure in Captivity: Housed mostly in pairs, but can have groups (usually 1.2), parents can be housed with cygnets for up to a year

Minimum Group Size: 1 (preferred size is 2)

Maximum Group Size: Varies, mostly 1.1, but can be 0.2; 1.2- usually can only have 1 male if there is a group of adults

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes **Comments:** Compatible with other waterfowl species except for other swans, can also be housed with ungulates such as reindeer

Species Fact Sheets

Optimal Habitat Size: Typically housed in open air exhibits or lakes, the size varies. Water should be deep enough for swimming and there should be enough land to build a nest 6' in diameter with plenty of extra land space to haul out and rest

Management Challenges: Can be aggressive at times to keepers during nesting season. Due to their territoriality, facilities can usually only house 1.1 (pair) on exhibit or 0.2. Open exhibits will attract native wild waterfowl which may lead to food competition and the possibility of external diseases introduced to the captive birds. Trumpeter swans are susceptible to gout which is often found on necropsy of deceased individuals. Gout is usually secondary to some other infection possibly due to diet or another underlying cause. They can also be susceptible to bumblefoot if proper substrate is not offered.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Trumpeter Swans are the tallest of all waterfowl at a height of 4 feet tall and 6-feet long with males (cob) weighing around 27.9 pounds and females (pen) around 22.5 pounds. The sexes are alike in appearance, but males are usually larger than females. Adults are long bodied and necked and have an all-black bill, with a salmon-red stripe running between the upper and lower bill. They also have black legs and feet with an all-white body.

Deep, resonant, trumpet-like call, loudest of all waterfowl; a single or double 'ko-hoh' similar to a crane.

Trumpeter swans were once fairly common throughout most of the northern U.S. and Canada. Due to mostly market hunting, the population was nearly decimated by the early 1900's with only ~69 birds left in a small Rocky Mountain population in the lower 48 states and small populations of birds in Alaska and western Canada. Thanks to restoration programs around the United States with the help from zoological, private and government facilities trumpeter swan population have reached over 60,000 individuals. The IUCN currently lists this species as being one of Least Concern. Trumpeter swans were never on the Federal list of endangered species but various states have listed them as state-threatened or state-endangered.

Even though the population is well on its way to recovery, they only inhabit about a third of their original home range and there are still active restoration programs which many zoos currently participate in. In the wild they face challenges such as lead poisoning, power line collisions, illegal hunting, pollution and habitat loss.

Species Fact Sheets

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The Trumpeter Swan Society

<http://www.trumpeterswansociety.org/index.html>

<http://www.trumpeterswansociety.org/swan-information.html>

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COMPLETED BY:

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Date: 7/4/2017