

It's Time to Participate in the 2015 North American Trumpeter Swan Survey!

The North American Trumpeter Swan Survey is the official population status assessment for this species. This survey was first conducted in 1968 and has been completed at five-year intervals since 1975. **The survey involves cooperators from federal, state, and provincial agencies across the United States and Canada, as well as volunteers from non-government organizations and the public.** The information resulting from this coordinated effort is used to assess and track population status, evaluate restoration efforts and inform development of conservation and management plans for this species.

Here in Ontario, assistance is needed to survey Trumpeter Swans during winter 2015. Ontario covers a vast area, but is a province that has many people. Having many volunteers out looking for and reporting information will provide much new, invaluable information on swan abundance, geographic distribution and seasonal habitat use that is much needed for Trumpeter Swan conservation and management. Winter is an ideal time to survey because swans concentrate where there is open water and accessible food. The survey typically is conducted during a short period of time to minimize the possibility that birds will move and be counted elsewhere in the province.

It is easy to participate in the Trumpeter Swan survey and to have a hand in contributing to their management and conservation. Trumpeter Swans are very conspicuous and can be easily distinguished from the two other swan species found in Ontario, the Tundra Swan and Mute Swan. The equipment required is minimal and the required information is easy to collect. Even not seeing any swans at a locale is important to record. Even though the focus of the survey is on Trumpeter Swans, observations of other waterfowl or any birds, especially notable winter sightings, are welcomed submissions.

OFFICIAL SURVEY DATE

31 January 2015 (Saturday) / weather date: 1 February 2015 (Sunday)

Note: swan data collected at any time during winter is useful and will be accepted, but data from within a day or so of the official survey day is most appropriate / valuable.

WHERE AND HOW TO SURVEY

Trumpeter swans can be found **anywhere in Ontario with open water**, check ice-free areas of lakes, ponds and rivers. Please respect private property and seek permission before accessing land. Surveyors may drive or walk survey areas and it is recommended to use binoculars, spotting scope, camera, etc. to count and reliably identify swans/birds. All information should be recorded on the provided data sheets.

SWAN SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

The Trumpeter Swan Society's website is an excellent information source to help with swan identification. This organization has produced a printable brochure that will help you distinguish between the three species of swan found in Ontario.

- www.trumpeterswansociety.org/swan-identification.html

USEFUL EQUIPMENT

- Datasheets for recording survey information (see below for a sample and one for survey use)
- Identification brochure from the Trumpeter Swan Society's website
- Binoculars/Spotting Scope
- Camera (with zoom lens), aids with reading/documenting wing tags and species identification.

WHERE TO SEND COMPLETED DATA FORMS & SURVEY-RELATED QUESTIONS

- E-mail: trumpeterswan@live.com
- Post: Ontario Trumpeter Swan Restoration, 1482 4th Concession West, RR 1, Troy, ON L0R 2B0

(Sample) Data Sheet: 2015 North American Trumpeter Swan Survey – Ontario Region.

Loc. #	Location Name (be specific if No GPS given)	GPS N (DD)*	GPS W (DD)	MM	DD	YYYY	Species	Family / Group #	# of Adult (white)	# of Cygnet (gray)	# Un-known	Markers
1	Corn field at SE corner of Hwy 24 & River Road 10km W of Beanford, ON			01	31	2015	Trumpeter swan	1	2			Yellow XS5, Yellow XS2
2	Big River in Smallville, ON	45.236598	-80.236598	01	31	2015	Trumpeter swan	1	2	0		
2	Big River in Smallville, ON	45.236598	-80.236598	01	31	2015	Trumpeter swan	2	2	4		
2	Big River in Smallville, ON	45.236598	-80.236598	01	31	2015	Trumpeter swan	3	2	2		
2	Big River in Smallville, ON	45.236598	-80.236598	01	31	2015	Mute Swan	4	2	0		
2	Big River in Smallville, ON	45.236598	-80.236598	01	31	2015	Tundra swan	5	20	0		
3	Jones Wildlife Area, N of Johnstown, ON	45.869523	-80.658996	01	31	2015	NONE	0	0	0		
4	Red Lake, 5km N of Orangeville, ON	45.623897	-80.326587	01	31	2015	Mallard	1			10	
5	1 Bird Ave., Simcoe, ON.			01	31	2015	Hoary Redpoll	1			50	

Comments:

Loc. #2: I surveyed the entire part of Big River within the town of Smallville.

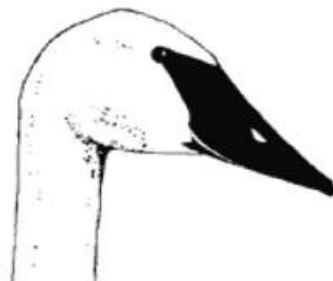
Loc. #3: I checked the Jones Wildlife area but the pond was 90% frozen; no swans or other birds were observed.

* A useful website to find GPS (Lat/Long) coordinates: <http://itouchmap.com/latlong.html>

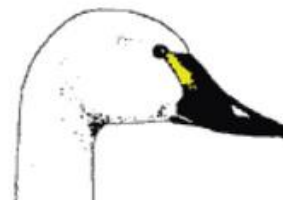
Note: Please provide 1 line of data for each swan Family (adults + cygnets) or Species / Group (other swans, bird species, etc.) at each location.



Mute Swan



Trumpeter Swan



Tundra Swan

Data Sheet: 2015 North American Trumpeter Swan Survey – Ontario Region.

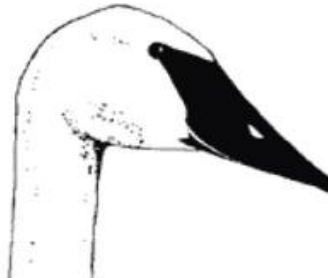
Loc. #	Location Name (be specific if No GPS given)	GPS N (DD)*	GPS W (DD)	MM	DD	YYYY	Species	Family / Group #	# of Adult (white)	# of Cygnet (gray)	# Un-known	Markers

Comments:

* A useful website to find GPS (Lat/Long) coordinates: <http://itouchmap.com/latlong.html>
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Mute Swan



Trumpeter Swan



Tundra Swan