



## Regional SSP- North American Zoological Trumpeter Swan Population

- 43 Institutions
- 45.46.15, 106 (89)  
total individuals
- 36 AZA  
institutions
- 7 non-AZA



## Trumpeter Swan SSP Goals

- Manage and maintain a sustainable genetically diverse population
- Support, facilitate and promote trumpeter swan and wetland conservation initiatives





## Key players in the Trumpeter Swan SSP

- Private aviculturists
- Participating facilities- AZA and non AZA
- Outside organizations- The Trumpeter Swan Society
- State Department of Natural Resources and Federal agencies-restoration efforts

## Restoration Efforts

- Past, Current and Future



### TRUMPETER SWAN

Perhaps no other creature in the animal kingdom has been immortalized for its elegance and beauty as the swan. The majestic trumpeter swan now graces Ohio's natural landscape since the Division initiated the Trumpeter Swan Reintroduction Project 10 years ago.

The loss of habitat and human persecution nearly wiped out the population of trumpeter swans in North America by 1900. Swans were sought for their skins that provided down for powder puffs, and feathers to decorate fashionable hats and to make writing pens. Numerous state conservation efforts gradually rescued the trumpeter swan from near-extinction. In Ohio, the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and the Wildlife played a major role in reestablishing this majestic swan.

For the first two years of the project, swans were obtained from zoos and private

individuals and housed at the Wildlife before being released into the wild at age two. In a second phase, eggs were collected from wild trumpeter swan nests in Alaska and incubated at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Once the eggs hatched, the young swans were transported to the Wildlife for rearing for two years before being released in groups of 10 to 15 in wildlife areas with suitable wetlands.

Swans reared in the project were released on the following wildlife areas: Hager Marsh (Ottawa County), Mallard Club (Lucas County), Killbuck Marsh (Holmes County), Pickens Creek (Sandusky County), Mountain Creek (Trumbull County), Grand River (Chubbuck County), and Killdeer Plains (Wayne County). Swans were also released at Winona Pond Marsh Conservancy (Ottawa County), the Wildlife (Shakingam County), Cedar Point Natural Wildlife Refuge (Lucas

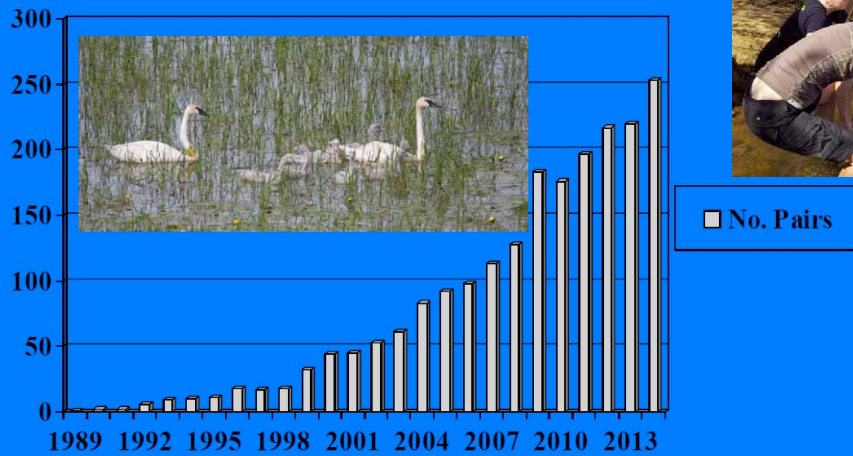
County), and Trossaint Shooting Club (Ottawa County).

Swans, like many avian species, typically imprint on the area where they were released and most likely return to the area to nest once sexually mature. Swans begin to nest at three to four years of age. This brings the story to full circle; today Ohio is home to 14 breeding pairs of trumpeter swans. According to Division wildlife biologists, in all likelihood the population will continue to increase as more and more young fledge from successful nests.

Other projects undertaken by the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo include Wolf Woods, featuring an Ohio wetland, an Ohio birds and butterflies exhibit, Blanding's turtle research, and the Division's Eastern Plains garter snake reintroduction project.

## Wisconsin Restoration Success

WI Trumpeter Swan Nesting Pairs, 1989-2014



[https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Documents/programs/convention/2018/FR-Session7/SumnerMatteson\\_TrumpeterSwanPopulationRecovery.pdf](https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Documents/programs/convention/2018/FR-Session7/SumnerMatteson_TrumpeterSwanPopulationRecovery.pdf)



## Current Restoration Programs-

- **Iowa**- restoration program started in 1995, around 20 zoos have participated, hundreds of swans sent over the years, population nearing sustainability with ~350 swans

2016

\*NEW Zoo  
\*Maryland Zoo  
\*Cleveland Metroparks Zoo  
\*Kansas City Zoo  
-15 total cygnets

2017

\*Maryland Zoo  
\*Cleveland Metroparks Zoo  
\*Kansas City Zoo  
\*Oklahoma City Zoo  
-8 total cygnets

2018

\*Maryland Zoo  
\*Cleveland Metroparks Zoo  
\*Kansas City Zoo  
\*Oklahoma City Zoo  
\*NEW Zoo  
\*Bronx Zoo  
\*Topeka Zoo  
\*Southwicks Zoo  
-17 total cygnets



## Dave Hoffman, Wildlife Technician, Iowa DNR

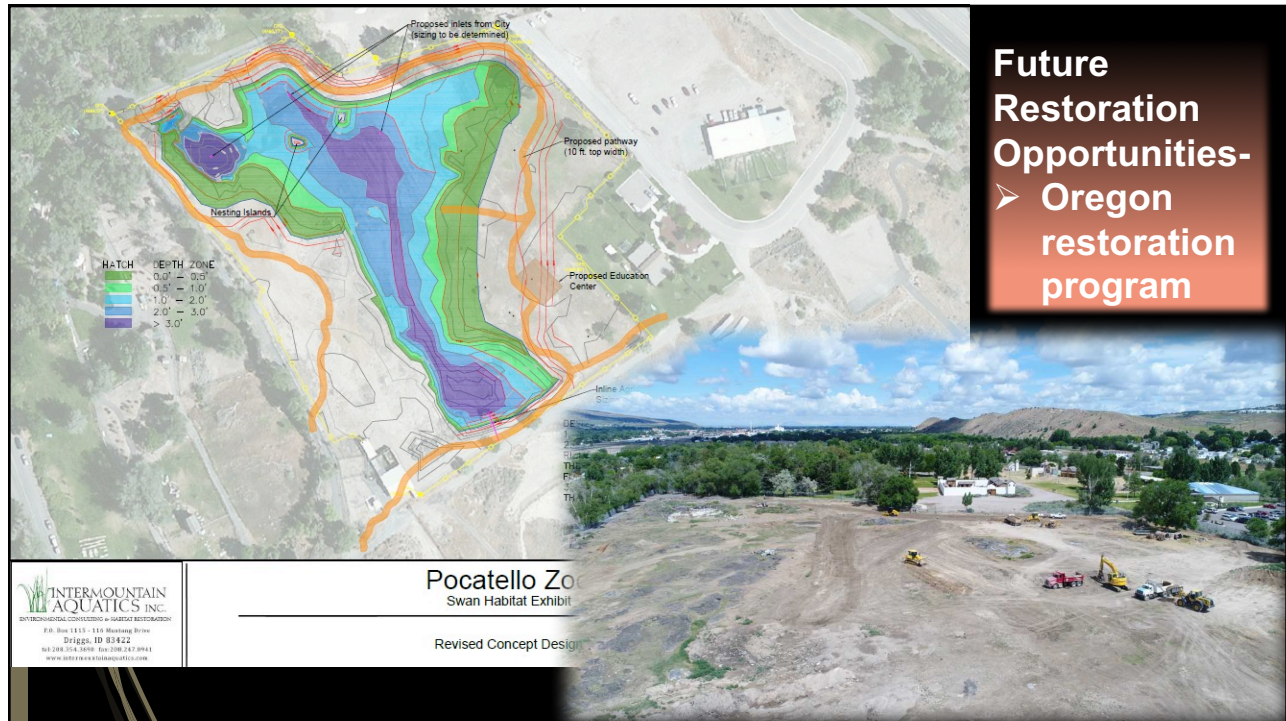
- Comprehensive program with expansive local involvement and educational component.
- Program includes housing the swans at a wintering site before release in the spring
- Releasing swans at different lake sites in Southern Iowa



## North Eastern Wisconsin (NEW) Zoo and Adventure Park, Green bay, WI



- Smaller zoo, 9 keepers, very active in TRSW conservation
- Cost effective to exhibit, educate and participate in waterfowl conservation



## Research Proposal for Captive Trumpeter Swan (Cygnus Buccinator) Genotyping

**T-shirts for Trumpeters:**  
 ➤ Fundraiser to raise money for a trumpeter swan genetic testing project within the Zoological community



## “Trumpeting” Zoo Conservation Work

- Written Articles
- Social Media/Press Releases
- Fundraisers
- Conservation talks
- Video



- Article written with the help of Margaret Smith (director of TTSS), Carol Hesch (Memphis Zoo) and myself for The Trumpeter Swan Society Newsletter, December 2016

### Zoos and Trumpeter Swan restorations



*Trumpeter Swan family at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo (CMZ). The three cygnets hatched earlier this year arrived in Iowa in early October and will be released in spring 2017 as part of the Iowa restoration program. The adult female (top) is eight years old and came to CMZ in 2010. The adult male (bottom) was hatched at CMZ in 1997 after being collected as an egg from Alaska. He was released in Ohio and then came back to CMZ in 2007 after being injured. He is nineteen years old. Photo courtesy: Cleveland Metroparks Zoo*

#### **Zoos have played a vital role in bringing the magnificent swan back to its historic range** How it began

Carol Hesch, Assistant Curator for the Memphis Zoo, shared with zoo donors the story of the zoo's role in Trumpeter Swan restoration. "12:20 PM, Aug 30, 1966, the Memphis Zoo (Overton Park Zoo) received a telegram from Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Montana, Montana, alerting zoo officials that their pair of Trumpeter Swans will be sent via rail car from Montana to Salt Lake City, and then flown by air to Memphis. This was the start of Trumpeter Swans at the Memphis Zoo."

"The United States Fish and Wildlife loan program was sending Trumpeter Swans to the zoos to increase productivity in captivity of this species. During this program, the first captive swans in captivity in 100 years were produced. Trumpeters were rare at this time, as all swan populations except for the Red Rocks group were virtually extirpated from the continental United States."

During the 1960s and 1970s, a number of zoos received Trumpeter Swans from Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. However the program was discontinued as the number of swans at the Refuge began to decline.

#### **Zoos help State Restoration Programs**



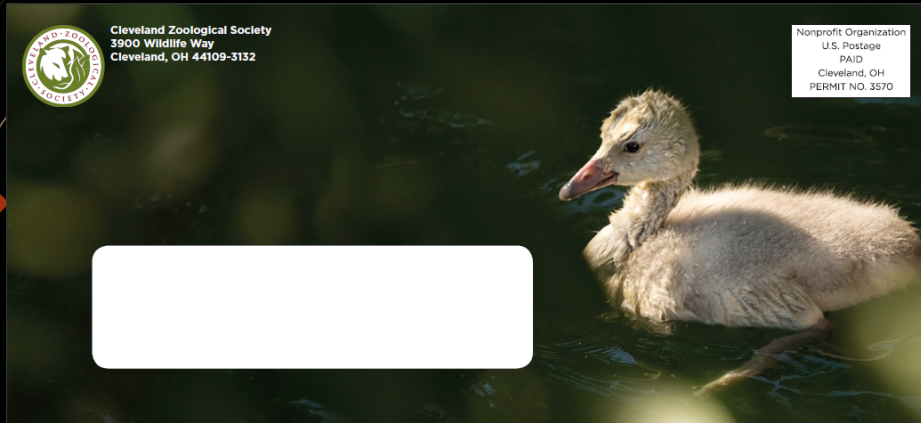
*Cygnets on exhibit with their parents at the Kansas City Zoo. Kansas City hatched and raised cygnets this year that will be part of Iowa's Trumpeter Swan restoration program. Photo courtesy of Kansas City Zoo*

Zoos played an important role in Trumpeter Swan restoration programs as far back as the 1930's. Through the years, they worked with state wildlife and natural resource departments in several different states across the country.

For example, the Minnesota Zoo, Watertown Zoo, Chicago's Brookfield Zoo and Tulsa Zoo contributed to Minnesota's restoration program. Wisconsin's major zoo partners were the Milwaukee Zoo, with the Brookfield Zoo and the Minnesota Zoo hatching eggs from Alaska and providing cygnets. Michigan's important partners were the Detroit Zoo and Binder Park Zoo.

Our ongoing Oregon Restoration Project has used cygnets from Kansas' Topoka and Lee Richardson Zoos, the Anchorage Alaska Zoo and the Cincinnati Zoo.

- Mailing sent out by Cleveland Zoological Society to 15,000 households to promote support for the annual fund while promoting zoo conservation work with the TRSW SSP



Dear Salutations,

Once native to a large portion of North America, including Ohio, trumpeter swans were listed on the endangered species list for 40 years and gone from Ohio for more than a century.

Instrumental in working with the Ohio Division of Wildlife, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo helped start a reintroduction program for these beautiful creatures in 1996.

Today, trumpeter swans are flying free in Ohio and several other states in their historic native range. This past fall, cygnets born at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo were sent to Iowa as a part of a reintroduction program. Those swans are expected to be released into the wild this spring.

The reintroduction of trumpeter swans is just one example of how your Zoo works to maintain healthy animal populations. Participating in more than 100 Species Survival Plan programs, your Zoo is dedicated to the long-term sustainability of species both at the Zoo and in the wild.

We are dedicated to fulfilling our mission to connect people with wildlife and inspire personal responsibility for conserving the natural world - but we can't do it without your help! Today we ask you to consider making a gift of \$-Gift Amount to the ZooFund. The Zoo depends on individuals like you for critical operating support to maintain excellence in animal care, provide compelling education programs and sustain conservation work in our region and beyond.

With you as our partner we will continue to advance our mission. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

*E.T. Fowler*  
Elizabeth T. Fowler  
Executive Director

*Ashley Walker*  
Ashley Walker  
Manager of Annual Giving

**YES! I want to help secure a future for wildlife.**

☐ \$1,000   ☐ \$500   ☐ \$250  
☐ \$100   ☐ \$75   ☐ \$50  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclosed is my:**

☐ Check payable to Cleveland Zoological Society  
☐ AmEx   ☐ Discover   ☐ MasterCard   ☐ VISA  
Card# \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV# \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I want to join the Monthly Giving Program. Change my credit card \$ \_\_\_\_\_ until I tell you to stop.  
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The Journal of the American Association of Zookeepers, Inc.

# Animal Keepers' Forum



*Special Issue  
Dedicated to  
Waterfowl*

November/December 2017, Volume 44, Nos. 11 and 12



## Trumpeting Waterfowl Conservation: Protecting the keepers of nature's waterways


Tiffany Mayo, Lead Hospital/Commissary Keeper  
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo  
Cleveland, Ohio

**Introduction**  
Conservation, by definition, is the careful preservation and protection of something it has been the buzzword in our industry lately. But why now? Conservation in zoos is nothing new. Participation in various programs has been ongoing for decades. Only recently has it come to light how important it is to get the message out to visitors about our efforts and the collective impact zoos and aquariums have on protecting wildlife. This core theme generates many questions. What programs should your institution support? Where will conservation dollars have the most influence? What will resonate most with visitors? The answers will vary from institution to institution based on various factors such as size, collection, resources and Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Saving Animals from Extinction (SAFE) programs.

According to Dan Ashe, President and CEO of AZA and former Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), "Despite an unquestionable reputation for animal care, commitment to conservation of animals in nature and demonstrated success in saving animals from extinction will be the factors elevating the merely good to the truly great within the zoological community, and ensuring prospects of and among 21st-century aquariums and zoos."

Waterfowl conservation is also nothing new. Its necessity has been apparent since the early part of the 20th century. Due to habitat loss and previous unrestricted rearing hunting, many populations of waterfowl have been negatively affected and some nearly decimated. Government agencies and well-known conservation entities such as Ducks Unlimited have been heavily involved in waterfowl conservation.


➤ **Waterfowl conservation article in the American Association of Zookeepers Animal Keepers' Forum- November/ December Issue 2017**



### Baby animal alert! Cleveland Metroparks Zoo welcomes four trumpeter swans

POSTED 5:11 PM, JUNE 29, 2018, BY KARA SLUTYAK

CLEVELAND — Cleveland Metroparks Zoo has welcomed four trumpeter swan cygnets. The young swans are the offspring of the adult trumpeter swans that can be seen in Waterfowl Lake.




courtesy: Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

## Social Media/Press Releases

**Southwick's Zoo, More than a Zoo**  
July 27

Earlier today, we posted about our Woodland Express Train Ride. One species you may see while on this ride is the Trumpeter Swan. Did you know that they are the largest species of waterfowl native to the United States? We are proud to be a part of a Trumpeter Swan recovery program. This species of swan was once considered endangered due to over-hunting and habitat loss. While their populations have greatly increased over the years due to conservation efforts, there are still sections of their original range where their numbers are still in recovery. We are part of program to help restore the Trumpeter Swan to its former breeding range in Iowa. The pair of adult swans will remain here at Southwick's in our North American habitat, and their cygnets (baby swans) will eventually be released in Iowa.



Liked by jkottyan and 516 others

**marylandzoo** Parenting. It's a team effort for trumpeter swans and both Scuttle and Buttercup here are pros at protecting their cygnet. #birdsofinstagram #parents #birds #swans #allforanimals #MarylandZoo

## North American Non-Lead Partnership

- A new partnership was formed with to help educate sportsmen about the conservation value of switching to non-lead ammunition.
- Opportunity for zoos to be a potential partner to develop special programs and local partnerships to engage with the hunting community about lead related conservation issues

## MAXIMIZING PERFORMANCE AND CONSERVATION WITH NON-LEAD AMMUNITION

Iowa Hunters are continuing their conservation heritage with the use of non-lead ammunition. This practice ensures maximum performance as well as healthy habitats and wildlife populations.



**AUGUST 29TH**  
**6:30-7:30 PM**

The Des Moines Chapter House of the  
Izaak Walton League  
4343 George Flagg Parkway  
Des Moines IA



Join us to learn about the North American Non-Lead Partnership (NANP), a coalition encouraging hunters to choose non-lead ammo by sharing factual information and developing partnerships.

Speakers - NANP Co-Founders:

- Leland Brown: Non-lead Coordinator; Oregon Zoo
- Chris Parish: Director of Global Conservation; The Peregrine Fund

Door Prizes : A selection of non-lead ammo and four \$50 Sporting-Goods Store Gift Cards  
Light refreshments will be served.

**Presented by Iowa Hunters: Leading the Way**

Visit our website [iowaleadingtheway.com](http://iowaleadingtheway.com)



## AAZK Fundraiser benefitting The Trumpeter Swan Society





## Cleveland Metroparks Zoo AIP class- Environmental Stewardship (September 2018)

- Students listened to talks about Lights Out Ohio and Zoo TRSW Conservation along with going on grounds to TRSW exhibit
- Talks also presented at AZA, volunteer and employee meetings at Zoo



## Promoting Conservation-

- Inspiring the next generation of conservationists



