



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### RARE TRUMPETER SWANS ON DISPLAY AT WASHINGTON ZOO

Two trumpeter swans, the first to be on display in a zoo or aviary in many years, may now be seen at the National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C., a loan from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

It has been 40 years since a trumpeter swan has been on display at the Washington zoo, although a lone specimen could be seen in a midwest park a decade or so later.

According to Ross Leffler, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife, the loan of the two trumpeters is part of a plan to allow public viewing and enjoyment of swans not deemed essential to maintaining the flock at the Red Rock Lakes Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in southwestern Montana or required for the establishment of breeding populations at new locations. The birds were captured at Red Rock Lakes during their flightless stage.

Congress established Red Rock Lakes Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in 1935 as a sanctuary for the 73 trumpeter swans then known to exist in the United States. The flock increased in size until it has now stabilized at about 600 birds, occupying suitable habitat on the Refuge, in Yellowstone National Park, Jackson Hole and in the Targhee National Forest.

Factors considered in selecting the Washington Zoo as the place where these rare birds should be exhibited included the opportunity for the birds being seen by the year-around stream of visitors who come to Washington from all parts of this country and from practically every nation in the world and because of the availability of the birds there for study by scientists engaged in ornithological research and related studies.

The Red Rock Lakes flock is one of the three groups of trumpeters known to exist in North America. The Canadian flock nests in northwestern Alberta, and the Alaska flock breeds in the Copper River country and on the Kenai National Moose Range. Small flocks have been or are in the process of being established at the National Elk Refuge in Western Wyoming, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon, and Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Nevada in order to increase the number and distribution of swans in this country.

Since provision for the future welfare of the trumpeter, by law, is a responsibility of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, under no circumstances will trumpeters be released for propagation or exploitation by private individuals.

A Fish and Wildlife Service publication Conservation in Action Series--No. 10 Red Rock Lakes--A National Wildlife Refuge for Trumpeter Swans is available through the Superintendent of Documents, United States Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., Price 15 cents.

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