



In Oregon, outside the traditional breeding range, 16 trumpeter cygnets were raised on the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. In all probability, others were missed during the counts as they hid in the tall tules that cover thousands of acres of refuge marshlands.

The trumpeter colony at the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Nevada contributed 11 cygnets to the national total, and at the Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge in South Dakota, where this year trumpeter swans nested east of the Rockies for the first time in 80 years, two young birds were reared.

Trumpeter swans were making a last-ditch stand in the high mountain country of the Yellowstone in the early 1930's. Here, the Red Rock Lake National Wildlife Refuge was established for them in 1935 in their last remaining major nesting grounds in the continental United States. From the refuge, the birds have moved out to reestablish themselves on their traditional breeding grounds throughout the Yellowstone region.

From the Red Rock Lakes Refuge also came the young birds that form the small breeding colonies now found on the Ruby Lake, Malheur, and Lacreek Refuges. Fortunately for Americans, the trumpeter swan responds to management and can establish successful breeding colonies when stocked in suitable areas.

Largest of the waterfowl of the North American continent, the adult trumpeter swan weighs between 20 and 30 pounds and has a wingspread of 7 to 8 feet. It is easily recognized by its great size, white plumage, black bill, and trumpeting call. Its neck is as long or longer than the large heavy body and the legs are short and strong. Its webbed feet are equipped with strong nails well-adapted to digging out the rootstocks of shallow-growing water plants on which the swans feed. Young birds are grayish colored.

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Note to editors: Photographs of the trumpeter swan are available from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. 20240.