

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

Carroll 343-5634

For Release to PMS September 15, 1969

TRUMPETER SWANS ARE HATCHING OUT ALL OVER

The Interior Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife reported today that trumpeter swans, once a rare wildlife species, are hatching out all over.

A cygnet (young swan) was hatched this summer at Carver County Park southwest of Minneapolis-St. Paul, the first trumpeter produced in Minnesota in nearly a century.

The second successful nesting of trumpeters in Nebraska since the turn of the century occurred this summer on the Valentine National Wildlife Refuge in north central Nebraska when two young were hatched. A year earlier, the first nesting took place near Gordon, Nebr.

"We are proud of the role our national wildlife refuges have played in this restoration," says Commissioner Charles H. Meacham of the Fish and Wildlife Service. "This is an example of conservation interests bringing about an action program that prevented the loss of one of America's greatest wildlife species."

Wildlifers are elated with the comeback of this majestic bird. In 1932, the 69 trumpeters left in the 48 contiguous States were located only in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming.

So critical had the decline become that the Federal Government established the Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Montana as a preserve for this species in 1935. Transplants to other refuges began four years later.

This summer's mating pairs at Carver County Park and Valentine came from Red Rock Lakes.

Bureau biologists counted 907 trumpeters in the contiguous United States during last fall's aerial survey and concluded that the total population, counting Alaska, probably exceeds 4,000. Additional trumpeters are in Canada.

Trumpeters were removed from the Government's list of rare and endangered wildlife in the United States following the 1968 census.

During the last survey, transplanted swans and their progeny were seen in South Dakota (76), Oregon (51), Washington (37), Nevada (34) and Minnesota (18). Except in Minnesota, all were on or near national wildlife refuges.

Counts in States where swans have always existed were: Alaska (2,842), Montana (365), Wyoming (126) and Idaho (94).

In addition, about 50 zoos in the United States now have this swan. Some trumpeters have lived 30 years in captivity; their life span in the wild is unknown.

Trumpeters are the largest North American bird in weight. Males sometimes reach 30 pounds. Whooping cranes are taller, but weigh only about 17 pounds. Trumpeters are appropriately named because their calls are loud and resonant.

Trumpeter Swans

