The Swans
compiled by Terry Smith

Whistling Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

**Breeding Area:** North American tundra, north of Arctic Circle from Alaska to Hudson Bay.

**Wintering Area:** Along the coasts of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

**Distinguishing Features:** Length: 48-58”. The adult plumage of the long-necked Whistling Swan is completely white with black legs and feet. The bill is entirely black except for a small yellow area in front of the eyes. Has a high-pitched whistling barklike call, “kow-wow”.

**Eggs, Nests, & Incubation:** 3 to 5 white eggs. Nests on tundra along the shores of lakes & ponds, occasionally on islands. Incubation: 30 to 32 days.

Trumpeter Swan *Cygnus buccinator*


**Wintering Area:** Remains in breeding areas as long as the waters remain unfrozen. Alaskan population migrates to coast of British Columbia.

**Distinguishing Features:** Length: 60-72”. The Trumpeter is identified by its great size, its wedge-shaped head, its entirely white plumage, and the lack of yellow in the bill. Has a loud, trumpeting, resonating call, a double-noted “koo-hoo”.

**Eggs, Nests, and Incubation:** 4-8 white eggs. Nests are often made from sedges and other aquatic plants are usually surrounded by water, but occasionally nests are on marshy ground far from open water. Incubation: 33 to 37 days.

Mute Swan *Cygnus odor*

**Breeding Area:** Eurasia from British Isles to Mongolia. Introduced to North America, Australia, South Africa, and New Zealand.

**Wintering Area:** Some wintering is done in breeding range. Other Mutes migrate to the Mediterranean and southwest Asia.

**Distinguishing Features:** Length: 50 to 61”. Adults have entirely white plumage. The bill is orange with black around the nostrils, nail, and the edges of the mandible. Can be readily identified in flight by their knobbled bill. Mutes, especially the male, swim with the inner wing feathers raised. The Polish Swan is a variety with pale colored legs. Polish cygnets and juveniles are white.

**Eggs, Nests, and Incubation:** 4 to 8 greenish-blue eggs. Both sexes gather

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reed stems, leaves, rushes, and other nesting material: the pen alone builds the nest on a bank or island, or in shallow water. Incubation: 35 to 36 days.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

**Breeding Area:** Eurasia and Iceland, possibly Japan.
**Wintering Area:** Great Britain, northwestern Europe, Asia Minor, northern India, China, Japan, and Korea.
**Distinguishing Features:** Length: 55 to 65". Both sexes are entirely white with black legs, feet, and bill that terminates in a fairly sharp point on the lower edge of the upper mandible. There is a large yellow marking that extends on the upper bill beyond the nostrils. Whoopers make a loud, double noted bugling call with the second note being higher pitched than the first.

**Eggs, Nests, and Incubation:** 4 to 6 white eggs. Builds a bulky nest of grasses and some mud on small islets, close to pools in boggy areas and along calm parts of rivers. Nest may be built up and reused for many years. Incubation: 31 to 32 days.

Bewick’s (Tundra) Swan *Cygnus bewickii*

**Breeding Area:** Northern Russia from Kanin Delta to the Lena Delta.
**Wintering Area:** British Isles and northern Europe.
**Distinguishing Features:** Length: 45 to 55”. This is the smallest of the northern swans. Species has entirely white plumage. The feet and legs are black. The bill is black with a small yellow patch that ends well behind the nostrils. The voice resembles that of the Whooper, but the call of the Bewick’s Swan is softer and more musical.

**Eggs, Nests, and Incubation:** 3 to 5 white eggs. Tundra nests are constructed of sedge grass, moss, and lichens have a deep depression lined with down and feathers. Nests are built near tundra pools, on small islands, or river estuaries. Incubation: 29 to 30 days.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

**Breeding Area:** Australia, except for the extreme north central region. Has been introduced into New Zealand.
**Wintering Area:** Not truly migratory. Moves in response to temporary flooding or severe drought.

**Distinguishing Features:** Length: 45 to 55”. Adult birds are uniformly dark browish-black with paler under body parts. The primary and secondary wing feathers are white; the inner secondaries are tipped with white. The greater wing coverts have a ruffled or crinkled appearance. The feet and legs are black. The bill is reddish-orange with a whitish subterminal bar and nail.

**Eggs, Nests, and Incubation:** 4 to 10 pale green eggs. Nest, a bulky arrangement of twigs, rushes, and water weed lined with white down, is built on a sedgy island in a lake or lagoon. The Black Swan is the only swan species where both sex incubate the eggs - the pen sets at night and the cob sets during the day. Incubation: 35 to 40 days.

Black-Necked Swan *Cygnus melanocoryphus*

**Breeding Area:** Southern third of South America and the Falkland Islands.
**Wintering Area:** Falkland Island population is non-migratory. Mainland swans migrates north during the southern winter.
**Distinguishing Features:** Length: 45 to 55”. The species is white except for its black neck and head. A white line extends from in front of the eye to the back of the head. Species has a large red caruncle located behind the bluish-gray bill with a paler colored nail. The legs and feet are pink.

**Eggs, Nests, and Incubation:** 4 to 8 cream colored eggs. Builds large bulky nests of plant material; nests may be partially floating. Incubation: 36 days. Since adult birds rarely come ashore, the cygnets spend a great deal of time being carried on the backs of both parents for the first 2 or 3 weeks.

Coscoroba Swan *Coscoroba coscoroba*

**Breeding Area:** Southern third of South America and the Falkland Islands.
**Wintering Area:** In austral winter, they move farther north, always remaining in the southern half of the continent.
**Distinguishing Features:** Length: 35 to 45”. This species is the only swan with a completely feathered face. Adult plumage is white except for black tips on the primaries. Its duck-like bill is rosy pink with a white nail. The legs and feet are a lighter pink. Not a member of the genus *Cygnus*, the Coscoroba is not a “true” swan. It walks more easily than other swans.

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Both sexes make a loud call, "cos-cor-oo"

Eggs, Nests, and Incubation: 4 to 7 creamy white eggs. Nest is a heap of aquatic vegetation near the edge of the water. It is lined with more down than is found in the nests of other swan species. Incubation: 35 days.

References


(Editor's note: Paul Johnsgard, who wrote and illustrated over 100 books dealing with wildlife and ecology, died May 28, 2021, at the age of 89. He was professor emeritus at UNL where he had taught life science for over 40 years.)

Buy, Sell, Trade

Ad Policy for HOAGBA members: The first 50 words are free. Additional words are 10¢ each. Payment is due at the time the ad is placed. E-mail ads to smithkct@centurylink.net or fax them to 913-533-2497. Consider others. Change or cancel the ad when items in the ad sell. Neither the club nor its officers guarantee the integrity of advertisers nor will they get involved in any transactions or misunderstandings between a buyer and a seller. Ads & other information for the November-December newsletter are due by Nov. 10.

FOR SALE 2021 Red Golden. WANTED 2 or 3 Elliot's hens. Ph. 816-540-4730 (MO) (11-12/21)


FOR SALE Birds of all kinds: Finches, Softbills, and more. Over 30 species of finches, Quail, Exotic Doves, and a variety of parrots. Request a current list from ksfinchman@yahoo.com or call Mike Langerot at 620-429-1872. Shipping available. (KS) (12/21)

Visit The Game Bird & Waterfowl Pages, the online game bird and waterfowl since 1997. Located at www.gbwf.org & the HOAGBA site at http://www.gbwf.org/hoagba/index.html (12/21)

Our current supply prices are posted on our web site https://poultrysupplies.com We are no longer printing catalog. (12/21)

2021 Coming Events

Please check with the sponsor of each event to see if the event there are any Covid 19.

Sept 26 BIRD & ANIMAL SWAP & SALE DAYS Monroe County Fairgrounds, Waterloo, IL, Hwy 156 West. Gate opens 5:30 A. M. Closes 11 or earlier as vendors sell out. Swap sponsored by Midwest Bird & Animal Breeders Association. For info., call Walter Rau @ 618-939-6809 or go to www.mbaba.org Out of state sellers must obtain a port of entry number by calling 217-782-4944. Poultry must be Pullorum-Typhoid clean before being exhibited or sold. Last swap: Oct. 31

Sept 30, Oct. 1 - 3 JACOB'S CAVE SWAPPING DAYS located between Versailles & Gravois Mills, MO on state road TT off Hwy 5. Thurs, Fri. & Sat. 6 A. M. till 10 P. M. & Sun. 6 A. M. till noon. Out of state sellers of birds & animals must contact the Missouri Division of Animal Health at 573-751-3377 prior to coming to the swap. Admission $5.00 per vehicle per day. For additional fees, go to www.jacobscave.com, Ph. 573-378-4374. email: jacobscave@earthlink.net

Oct. 1-3 LAKE OF THE OZARKS PIGEON CLUB SWAPPERS DAY, Cooper County Fair Grounds, 16899 Durkles Drive, Boonville, MO. For inf., call 660-534-5031 or 660-473-6159.

Oct. 3 SWAP & TRADE DAYS sponsored by Tri-K Pigeon & Bantam Club, Kankakee, IL Fairgrounds 213 W. 4000 S. Rd. Doors open at 5 a.m. Poultry & game birds must have proof of being Pullorum-Typhoid clean & Parrot-type birds must be tested for Newcastle Disease. Out of state sellers must obtain a port of entry number within 48 hours prior to entry by calling 217-782-4944. Sellers must complete a sales record listing the seller's name, address, ph. #, the swap date, and an app. number of birds or animals brought to the swap. For inf., call Brian, 815-697-2980 or Dave 815-953-4511. Permits are required for wildlife. Call 815-933-5218 for permit info.

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Oct 15-16 MID-OHIO SWAP MEET 8076 St. Rt. 241, Mt. Hope, OH. For info., call 330-674-7661 or go the web site: http://mthopeauction.com

Oct 16-17 AFTON, OK POULTRY SWAP, 53991 E 59 Hwy. (3 miles south of Buffalo Ranch on Hwy. 59.) Free overnight camping. Concession, plenty of shade. Set-up $2.00 per vehicle per day. For inf., web site: http://www.aftonpoultryswap.com or call 918-257-4651 or 918-257-3436. Swaps held the third Saturday and Sunday of each month through November and on all holiday weekends. Last swap: Nov. 20-21.

Oct. 16-17 BIRD & ANIMAL AUCTION Christenson Field, off Hwy 30 on the west side of Fremont. $5.00 admission. For more info. go to nelsonlivestockauctions.com or call Chris Nelson 402-640-7283. Fall auction: Oct. 16-17


Oct. 30 47th ANNUAL WBGBA SWAP sponsored by the Wisconsin Bird & Game Breeders Assn., 6:30 A. M. - Noon, heated Expo Building, Fond du Lac Cty. Fairgrounds, Fond du Lac, WI. (between US Hwy. 45 & Martin Ave.) Admission $5.00. Friday set-up from 4:00 P. M. to 9:00 P. M. Sellers must have blood testing papers. No turkeys or hoof stock due to Dept. of Agriculture regulations. For swap info., call Jim Bleuer @ 920-379-6188 or e-mail jim@bleueracres.com Web site: wbagba.org

Nov. 5-6 MID-OHIO ALTERNATIVE BIRD & ANIMAL AUCTION 8076 St. Rt. 241, Mt. Hope, OH. For info., call 330-674-7661 or go the web site: http://mthopeauction.com Last auction: Nov. 5-6

Nov. 10-13 5-H RANCH EXOTIC ANIMAL AUCTION, 2231 County Road 618, Jackson, MO. For info: email office@5-hranch.com or https://www.facebook.com > 5-H-Ranch-Animal-Auction-107189630893125

November 28 ALL AGE/ALL BREED PIGEON SHOW sponsored by the MOKA Modena and All Breed Pigeon Club, Newton County Fair Grounds, Neosho, MO. For information, contact Terry Daily, the show secretary at 417-993-5774 or email ap4u2sttx@hotmail.com

2022 Dates

Feb. 19 SATURDAY SWAP sponsored by the Minnesota Game Breeders Club, 7 A. M. - Noon, McLeod Ct. Fairgrounds, Hutchison, M. Admission - $5.00. Doors will be open 4 to 8 P. M. 2/18 for people to set up. All birds except pigeons, doves, and aviary type birds must be poulter run tested. Certification will be checked. Out of state birds require bands and an import permit which can be obtained by calling 320-231-5170; email poultry@bah.state.mn.us For info., call Blane Johnson at 320-304-1728.

March 12 WBGBA SWAP sponsored by the Wisconsin Bird & Game Breeders Assn., 6:30 A. M. - Noon, heated Expo Building, Fond du Lac Cty. Fairgrounds, Fond du Lac, WI. (between US Hwy. 45 & Martin Ave.) Admission $5.00. Friday set-up from 4:00 P. M. to 9:00 P. M. Sellers must have blood testing papers. No turkeys or hoof stock due to Dept. of Agriculture regulations. For swap info., call Jim Bleuer @ 920-379-6188 or e-mail jim@bleueracres.com Web site: wbagba.org

March 19 HOAGBA AUCTION 8:00 A. M. Fairgrounds, Gardner, KS. Main arena & equipment consignments taken 3/18: 7:00 A. M. to 7:00 P. M. Aviary birds & equipment: 3/18: 3:30 P. to 7:00 P. M. 3/19: 8:00 A. M. to 10:00 A. M. For inf., call John or Terry Smith @ 913-879-2587. Fall auction: Sept. 10.

April 23-24 EXOTIC BIRD & ANIMAL SWAP 6 A. M. Waverly Sales Company Grounds, 2212 5th Avenue NW, Waverly, IA. (Exit 208 off Hwy. 218) Admission $5.00 per person over 12. Gates open 3 p. m. Sat. All poultry, including waterfowl, should be tested within 90 days before the swap. For inf., call Mike Cheever at 319-939-5894. June, 18-19, Sept. 17-18

Raising Mountain Quail
by Robert A. Tybie
reprinted by the Oct.-Nov., 1975 Gazette

The Mountain Quail is truly a magnificent bird. It is the largest North American Quail, found mostly in the three western states of California, Oregon, and Washington. Coming from the higher elevation, they are very hardy and will adapt well to about any state. We keep several pairs of breeders and put two to three pairs in an 8’ by 8’ pen. We feed Purina Flight Conditioner changing to Purina Layena about February 1. During the breeding season, we also feed wild bird feed and lettuce to the breeders. Mountain Quail usually start laying about the first week in March here in California. We put brush piles in the corners of each pen and a lean-to

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board in one corner. Some birds prefer making their nests behind the brush piles while others prefer the lean-to board. Once the nest is established, all the birds lay in the same nest. We gather the eggs daily, leaving one egg as a nest egg. Mountain Quail hens lay every other day, skipping occasionally. They usually lay from twenty to thirty-five eggs per bird, but, of course, there are exceptions. Fertility runs fairly high during the first part of the season but drops considerably during the latter part. Sometimes, fertility can be boosted during the latter part of the season by changing males from pen to pen. In a lot of cases, fertility will rise with the strange/new male. It is worth a try if you see that the eggs are dropping in fertility toward the end of the laying season.

We hatch all eggs in forced air incubators and hold the eggs no longer than seven days. During the peak of the laying season, we set eggs every other day. Mountain Quail eggs hatch better if the incubator is run a little on the dry side. If there is too much moisture, the chicks get too large and cannot get out of the shell or they will drown in the shell. We do not add any moisture in the hatcher either.

After the hatch, the hatching trays are disinfected. Chicks can get navel infections if sanitation is not maintained in the hatcher. In the past we have lost chicks at two or three days of age. We sent them to a pathology lab, and this was their finding.

We start the chicks in solid-bottom brooder boxes about 15" x 15" and 12" high. Each bird is de-beaked slightly as it is removed from the hatcher as they will sometimes eye pick the first few days. We put either white sheeting or burlap in the bottom of the brooders.

We use parakeet water fountains because the lip is very narrow and the chicks can not get wet and drown in them. We feed 30% game bird starter mash, egg yolk, and finely chipped lettuce. If after the first couple of days we see any chicks not eating the egg yolks, we cut mealworms in half and touch them to the beaks of the chicks. They will partake of the inside of the worm. This can be kept up for five or six days, and by then they are usually eating well and the mealworms can be discontinued. We do not let them have the shell of the mealworm as it encourages toe picking since mealworms resemble toes.

We use a double socket in each brooder, using one 25 watt white bulb and one 25 watt red bulb. Each brooder box is covered over about two-thirds of the way depending on the weather. Watch closely the first couple of weeks as Mountain Quail are notorious toe pickers. If toe picking starts to occur, we turn off the white bulb, and it usually stops. After a few days, they become accustomed to the red bulb and the white bulb can be discontinued completely. Mountain Quail never seem to feather pick as other game birds do.

After about two weeks, the chicks are moved to larger brooder boxes. We use alfalfa hay as litter in the larger boxes. At about six weeks of age, they are ready to be moved to wire-bottom brooders, and the heat is gradually reduced to harden them off. We do not put them outdoors until they are nine to twelve weeks old, as they can chill easily and die. If nights do seem chilly, we use a 150 watt heat lamp which is hung about 18" above the ground. Mountain Quail are not fully feathered with their adult plumage until they are about five months of age. The neck area and the plumes are the last areas to get the adult feathers, and they can be sexed at this time.

The male has a longer plume, and the steel gray color runs all the way up the back of the neck. The back of the neck on the hen is brown and she has a shorter plume.

Mountain Quail breeders can be kept for eight years or so. They will not lay as many eggs, but the fertility is usually higher as they get older, so it balances out.

In conclusion, be sure they are eating the first few days and watch for toe and eye picking. They take a little more time and attention than some birds, but they are worth it.

[Editor's note: Mr. Tybie was recognized as one of the great quail breeders of all time. Some of the items we take for granted when we brood chicks such as drown-proof water bases, easy liner, and brooders with electronic thermostats were not available to breeders back then. Even though the article was first published over 40 years ago, it still has some information that could be adapted to your breeding program.]
Maintain feed and water levels in the containers deep enough that the birds can eat and drink without injuring their tender beaks.

During hot weather, debeak in the coolest part of the day.

To reduce the stress of debeaking, add a high level of antibiotic to the drinking water two to three prior to and after debeaking.

To reduce the number of starve-outs with turkeys, do not debeak day-old turkeys because they will have more difficulty learning to eat and drink. Wait until the poults are between two and four weeks old.

3. Trichomoniasis or canker, a disease that affects pigeons and doves as well as other fowl including pheasants and peafowl, is caused by a single-celled flagellated protozoan parasite *Trichomonas gallinae* (upper form of the disease) and *Trichomonas gallinarium* (lower form of the disease). Pigeons and doves, which are generally more susceptible to the upper form, are usually infected during feeding.
when the adult birds transmit the protozoa to their young. Gallinaceous birds, the pheasants and peafowl, are more susceptible to the lower form which can be transmitted by wild birds or from their drinking from stagnant water. Young or growing birds are usually most affected by this disease. Symptoms may include: loss of appetite, rapid weight loss, increased thirst, weakness, frequent swallowing, gasping for air, extending the neck, sunken breast due to an empty crop, watery eyes, watery yellow diarrhea, and a foul-smelling discharge from the mouth. In the upper form of the disease, white or yellowish sores or lesions appear in the mouth, throat and crop of infected birds. In the lower form, lesions are confined to the lower digestive tract and the liver. The disease has a period of two weeks between the time the birds are affected and the appearance of any symptoms. Sick birds should be isolated, and unaffected birds should be kept as clean as possible. Non-meat birds can be treated with metronizole (Flagyl/Fish Zole) for three to five days. To treat with Copper Sulfate, make a stock solution by adding 1 pound copper sulfate and 1 cup vinegar to 1 gallon of water. To treat a smaller number of birds, use 1/4 pound Copper Sulfate and 1/4 cup vinegar to 1 quart water. Add one tablespoon or 1/2 ounce stock solution to one gallon drinking water and keep it before the birds as the only source of drinking water for 4 to 7 days. Do not use metal water containers with the stock solution. Pigeons and doves can also be treated individually with Spartrix pills or any of the many canker tablets available in a Pigeon Supply Catalog. Recovered birds are carriers.

4. The following information is adapted from The Book of Geese by Dave Holderread. Waterfowl require two to three times more niacin than poultry chicks. A niacin deficiency can result in crippled legs, stunted growth, and poor feathering. Goslings will have diarrhea and be emaciated. If goslings are kept in confinement and fed chick starter, it will be necessary to add niacin to their feed or water. Niacin can be obtained from vitamin mixes and dried brewer’s yeast (add 2 to 3 cups of dried brewer’s yeast to each 10 pounds of chick starter). Goslings having a riboflavin deficiency will also have diarrhea, retarded growth, develop curly-toe paralysis, have drooping wings, and will fall back on their hocks. Sources of riboflavin are tender grasses and clover, dried yeast, alfalfa meal, whey, and skim milk.

Reflections on the Auction

By Terry Smith

I am always relieved as I drive home from the auction on Saturday night, especially if we had a good sale without any major problems. Before the auction, I am concerned about the weather on Friday and Saturday, if there will be lots of consignments, and if there will enough help.

Before the sale, I prepare and mail out the auction flyer, take care of printed and online advertising, number the bid cards, organize the clerking sheets for the 5 auction areas, get the consignments listed on the club’s web site & do Craigslist postings with the help of Ted Golka, Dennis Connolly, Roger Graham, and Nick Tull.

On Sunday, I begin filling in the auction pay out on an Excel spreadsheet and by Sunday evening, I can see if all the work resulted in a profit. I recount the money and get the deposits ready for John to take to the bank Monday morning. I mail out checks to those consignors who did not pick them up. I add the new buyers to the mailer and bidder files. I can finally forget about the auction when I pack up the auction supplies boxes and put them pack on the shelves until next year.

Cindy Hoffman gets the consignment sheets and tags numbered and is in charge of the main arena check-in. This year she checked in 1081 lots of birds and small animals. The following comments are from Cindy: “Another good fall sale is in books. Bigger than expected; was nice to have the great weather. THANKS to everyone that helped do anything to make the auction work. It’s a lot of work before, during and after. We have lots of older helpers and it would be greatly appreciated for younger and more people to step up to help tag consignment cart them the sale area. Especially when there are members standing around watching and complaining about how long it takes to get checked in. Rabbit people, you all know your rabbits chew up wood hutches and or pens. Why would you think it would work to put them in plastic baskets or have plastic on top that they can chew out? We spent lots of time chasing several rabbits that kept chewing out. It would have been your loss if not caught! Using plastic containers for food and water doesn’t work either; they chewed them up, and they were hungry and very thirsty. Thanks also to all the volunteers who brought the good food we all could share and enjoy. Looking forward to seeing everyone again in March for the spring auction. Wishing everyone good health and best wishes.”
Membership Renewal Notice

If the date on your mailing label is highlighted, it's time to renew your membership. Send a $10.00 check made payable to HOAGBA by the 15th of the month so I can make changes on the mailer file. Because of postal regulations, I can no longer mail receipts with the newsletter. Check the date after your name. It will indicate whether or not I received your membership payment.

Name__________________________________________
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Your membership will expire with the ___________ issue.

Your membership expired with the ___________ issue.

This is your last issue.

Terry Smith, editor Heartland News
14000 W. 215th S., Bucyrus, KS 66013

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