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FALL 2009



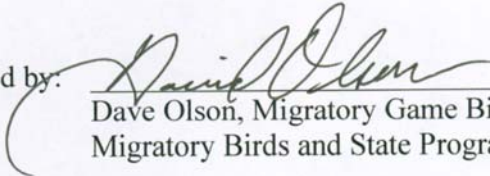
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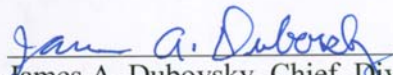
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Migratory Birds and State Programs
Mountain-Prairie Region
Lakewood, Colorado


December 22, 2009

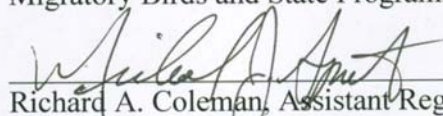
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Abstract – Observers counted 473 swans (white birds and cygnets) in the U.S. Breeding Segment of the Rocky Mountain Population of trumpeter swans during fall of 2009, 3.1% higher than the count from last year (459). The number of white birds in the tri-state region (361) decreased for the second year in a row from the recent high count in 2007 (383). The total number of cygnets increased by 3.1% from 2008. The numbers of young produced in Montana and Idaho increased by 66.7% and 76.2%, respectively, from 2008. However, Wyoming had a decrease in cygnet production of 9.1% from that of 2008. The abundance of total swans at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) was half of what it was in 2008. However, the survey was incomplete because no aircraft were available to conduct an aerial survey. Ten swans were observed at the Summer Lake Wildlife Management Area, all of which were translocated from Malheur NWR (6 cygnets) and Wyoming Wetlands Society (4 yearlings). The count for Nevada was about the same as in recent years. Precipitation throughout most of the tri-state area was average during winter 2008-2009. During the summer months, temperatures were slightly below average and precipitation was above average. Palmer Drought Indices for areas within the tri-state region were improved from values during summer 2008.

The Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) of trumpeter swans (*Cygnus buccinator*) consists of birds that nest primarily from western Canada southward to Nevada and Wyoming (Fig. 1). The population is comprised of several flocks that nest in different portions of the overall range. The RMP/Canadian Flocks consist of birds that summer primarily in southeastern Yukon Territory, southwestern Northwest Territories, northeastern British Columbia, Alberta, and western Saskatchewan. The Tri-state Area Flocks summer in areas at the juncture of the boundaries of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho (hereafter termed the tri-state area) and nearby areas (Fig. 2). The RMP/Canadian and Tri-state Area flocks winter sympatrically primarily in the tri-state area. In addition, efforts have been made to establish several restoration flocks, such as those at Ruby Lake NWR in Nevada (i.e., Nevada flock) and those at Malheur NWR and Summer Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and vicinity (i.e., Oregon flock), by translocating adult swans and cygnets from other portions of the RMP. These birds tend to winter in areas near those where they nest. This report contains information only from the Tri-state Area and restoration flocks, collectively referred to as the RMP/U.S. Breeding Segment. These terms for the various groups of swans are consistent with the Pacific Flyway Management Plan for the RMP of Trumpeter Swans (Subcommittee on the Rocky Mountain Population of Trumpeter Swans 2008).

The Fall Trumpeter Swan Survey is conducted annually in September. The survey is conducted cooperatively by several administrative entities and is intended to provide an accurate count of the number of RMP trumpeter swans that summer in the U.S. The history of the survey dates back to the 1930s, although methods and survey coverage have changed over time as the number of swans increased and new technologies became available. To be consistent with previous reports, only data from 1967 to present were analyzed for this report. The data are used by managers to assess the annual status of the Tri-state Area Flocks and restoration flocks.



Fig. 1. Approximate ranges of trumpeter swans during summer (from Moser 2006).

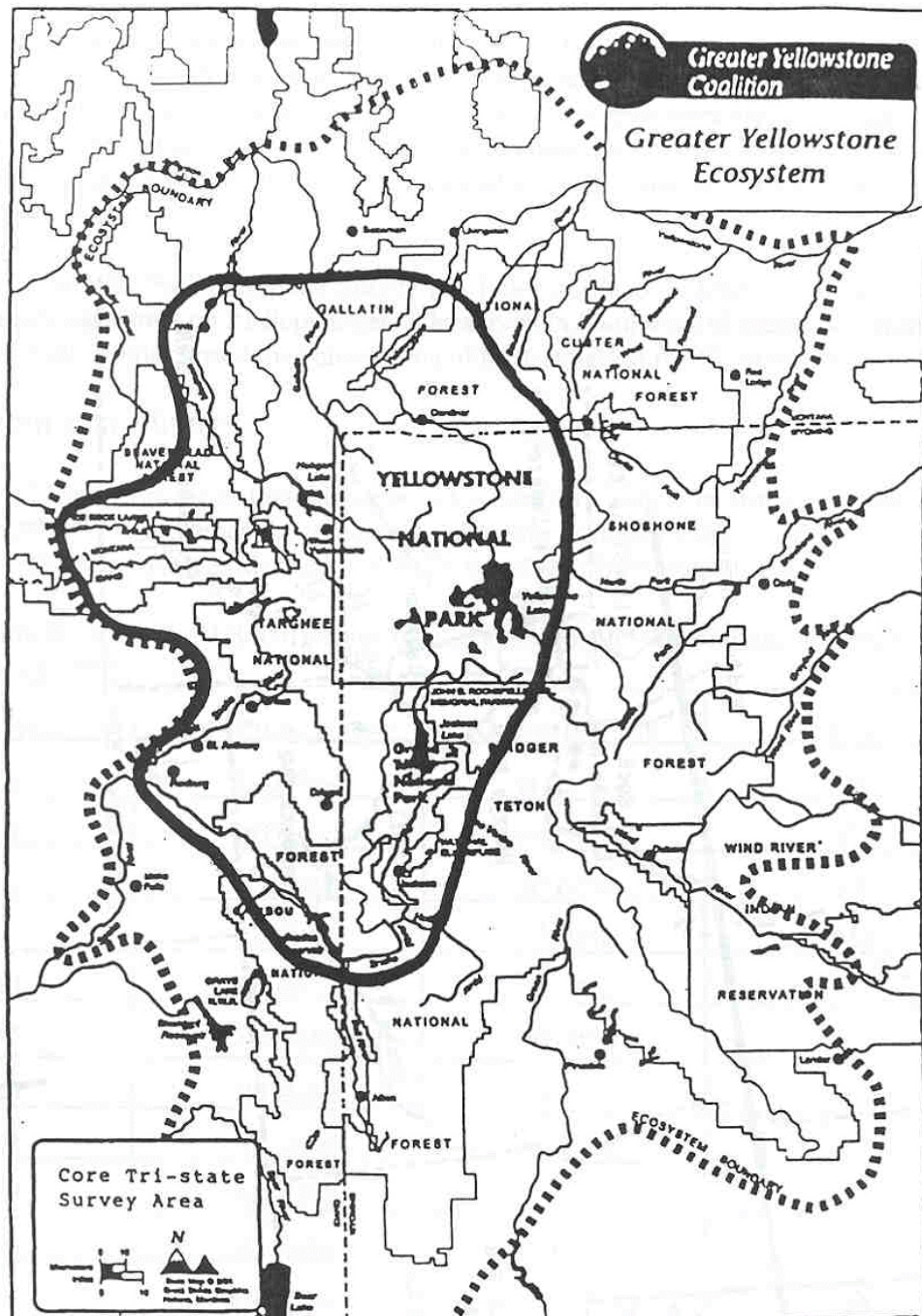


Fig. 2. Map showing the 'core' tri-state area of southeast Idaho, southwest Montana, and northwest Wyoming (provided by the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Bozeman, Montana).

METHODS

The survey is conducted within a relatively short time frame to reduce the possibility of counting swans more than once due to movements of birds among areas. Aerial cruise surveys and ground surveys are used to count numbers of swans in the tri-state area, in Nevada, Malheur NWR, and at the Summer Lake WMA and vicinity; ground surveys also are used to count the number of swans in isolated pockets of habitat not covered by aerial surveys. During aerial surveys, data are collected by observers seated in a single-engine, fixed-winged aircraft. Flying altitude varies with changes in terrain and surface winds, but generally averages 30-60 m above ground level, and flight speed is between 135-155 kph. One to two observers and the pilot count white (i.e., adults and subadults) and gray (i.e., cygnets) swans in known or suspected summer habitats. Counts are not adjusted for birds present but not seen by aerial crews, and have an unknown and unmeasured sampling variance associated with them.

During fall 2009, all areas within the tri-state region were surveyed during 14-18 September. Approximately 24 h of flight time and additional ground survey time were required to complete the survey. Weather conditions during surveys consisted of sunny to mostly cloudy skies, light winds, scattered showers and temperatures ranging from the low 40s to about 80 degrees fahrenheit.

We used least-squares regression on log-transformed counts to assess changes in growth rates for each of the swan flocks comprising the RMP/U.S. Breeding Segment. Counts from the current fall survey (2009) were compared to results from the earlier time frames, a practice used in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey reports for other waterfowl (e.g., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2009, Zimpfer et al. 2009).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During winter 2008-09, areas within the summer range of the Tri-state Area Flocks received 100%-150% of normal precipitation. Overall for the winter, the temperature for much of the survey region was about 2 °F below average (Joint Agricultural Weather Facility 2009a). For the second year in a row, cold conditions continued into April and May, with April temperatures averaging 4-6 °F below normal, and May temperatures 5 °F below average (Joint Agricultural Weather Facility 2009b). Records for cold temperatures and dates for latest and/or amounts of snowfall occurred at many locations within the range of the Tri-state Area Flocks. Cold and moist conditions occurred throughout the region during late spring and summer. Precipitation amounts were 100%-150% above average during June-August, and temperatures averaged about 3 °F lower than normal (Joint Agricultural Weather Facility 2009c). During mid-June, drought conditions were variable across the survey area, with severe-to-extreme drought conditions continuing around Yellowstone National Park and moderate drought occurring along the Green River in Wyoming (Fig. 3). In Montana, wetland conditions continued to improve compared to those two years ago with more basins containing water. The Palmer Drought Index for southwestern Montana (near the north-central portion of the core tri-state area) during summer continued to improve for the second year in a row, but remained below average (Fig. 4)

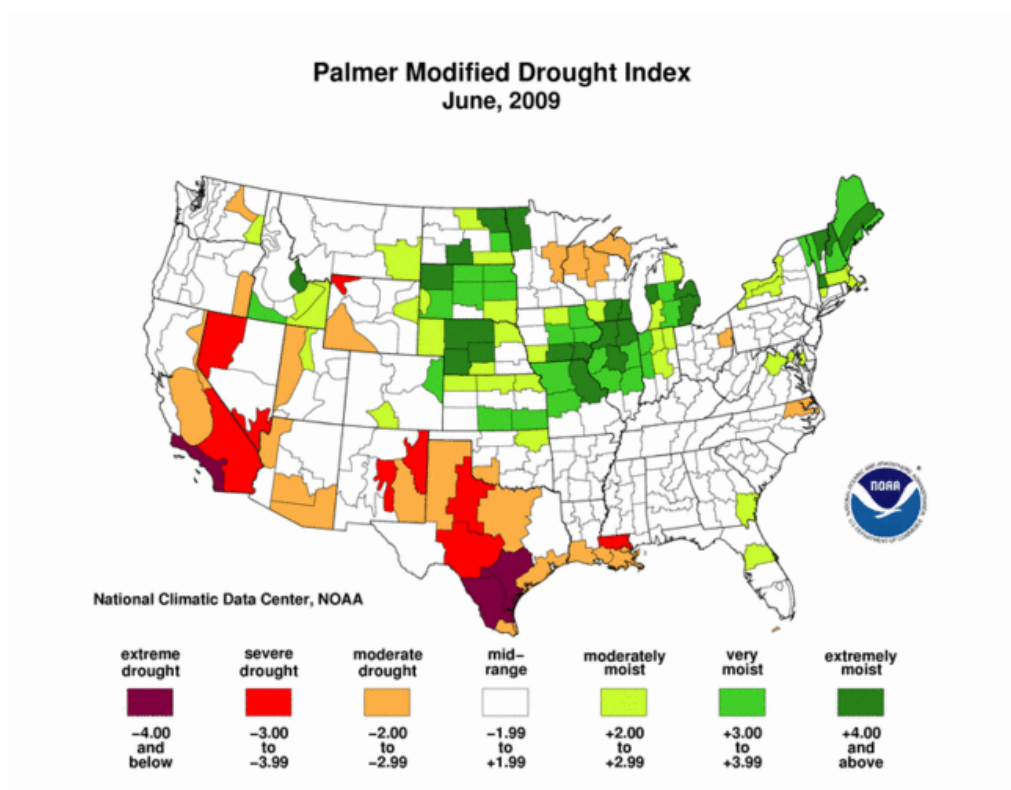


Fig. 3. Palmer Drought Index map for June 20, 2009 (Joint Agricultural Weather Facility 2009d).

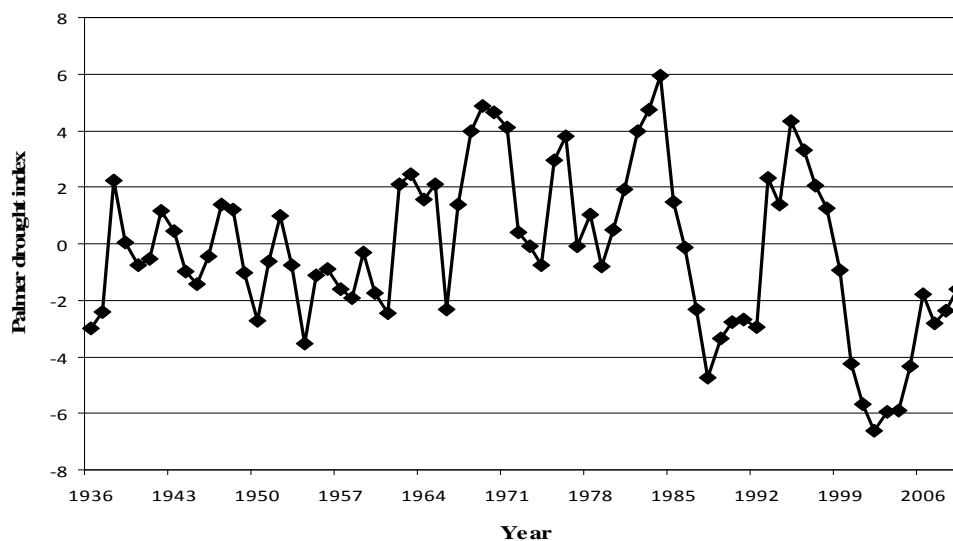


Fig. 4. Monthly Palmer Drought Indices for climate division 2 in southwest Montana (data from the National Climatic Data Center [<http://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/cirs/drd964x.pdsi.txt>]).

Historical Trends

Historical (i.e., 1967 to the early 1990s) trends in abundance for the U.S. Breeding Segment of RMP trumpeter swans were described in a previous report (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2003), and the details of those analyses will not be reiterated here. Briefly, regression analyses suggested that the growth rate for total swans of the entire U.S. Breeding Segment did not change ($P = 0.27$) during 1967-88 (Table 1, Fig. 5). The rate for white birds appeared to decline slightly (-0.8% per year, $P [\beta < 0] = 0.16$), while that for cygnets showed no trend ($P = 0.50$). Patterns for regression statistics for the Tri-state Area Flocks were similar to those for the RMP/U.S. Breeding Segment (Fig. 6), because the vast majority of birds comprising the RMP/U.S. Breeding Segment summer in the tri-state area (Table 1). However, the counts of white swans appeared to decline at a somewhat greater rate (-1.0% per year, $P = 0.09$) during 1967-88, compared to those for white birds in the entire RMP/U.S. Breeding Segment.

Birds summering in Montana (Table 2) had patterns of change relatively similar to that of the Tri-state Area Flocks as a whole, because historically the swans in Montana comprised the majority of birds in the Tri-state Area Flocks. Total swans in Montana appeared to decline slightly (-1.2% per year) during 1967-88 (Fig. 7), although the value for the slope parameter was only marginally significant ($P = 0.16$). The decline existed only for white birds; counts for cygnets suggested no trend ($P = 0.95$). In Idaho, no trends in total or white swan counts were evident, but the counts for cygnets increased ($P = 0.03$) (Fig. 8). No trends in swan counts were evident in Wyoming (Fig. 9).

For restoration flocks, we analyzed data only for Malheur NWR (Oregon flock) and Ruby Lake NWR. Swans were translocated to Summer Lake WMA (Oregon flock) beginning in winter 1991; therefore, data for that area prior to that time are not available. Plots of the swan counts for total birds and white birds at Malheur NWR suggested that a piecewise regression with a breakpoint at 1983 would fit the data better than a simple linear regression. For the period 1967-1983, no trend was evident in counts of total swans or white birds ($P \geq 0.17$) (Fig. 10). During 1984-1991, rates for total birds and white birds were negative but not statistically significant ($P \geq 0.15$). No trend in the rate for cygnets was evident for either time period ($P \geq 0.45$). Counts for the Nevada flock ranged between 6 and 42 birds (Table 2), with no apparent long-term trends (Fig. 11).

Complete surveys of the Summer Lake WMA have not been conducted consistently since 2001. Therefore, analyses using post-1991 data for the RMP exclude counts for that area so that areas surveyed were comparable across years. As a consequence, some results may differ from previous reports.

During 1988-92, several significant management actions affecting the RMP/U.S. Breeding Segment occurred concurrently (e.g., termination of winter feeding, experimental translocations of swans [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2003]), and may collectively have influenced the demographics of these birds. The number of swans in the RMP/U.S. Breeding Segment

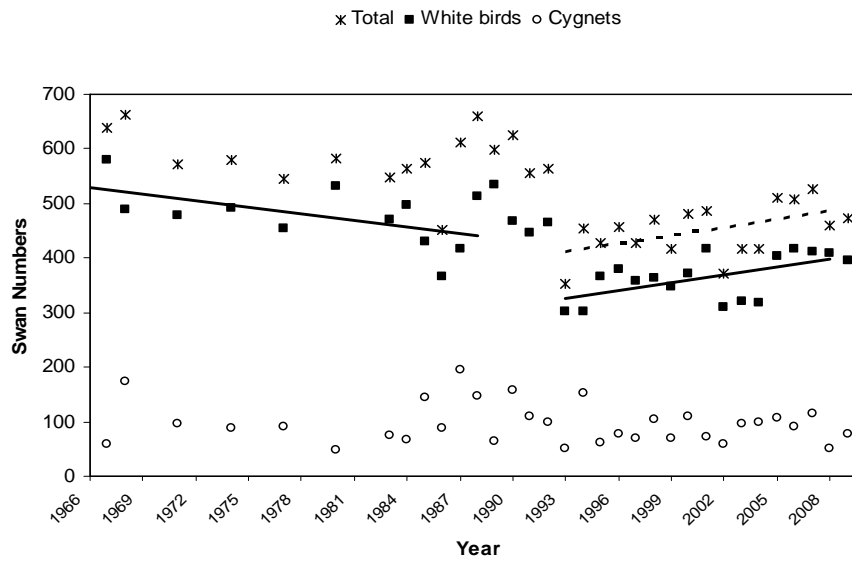


Fig. 5. Counts of swans in the RMP/U.S. Breeding Segment during the Fall Trumpeter Swan Survey, 1967-2009 (dotted and solid lines depict trends for total swans and white birds, respectively).

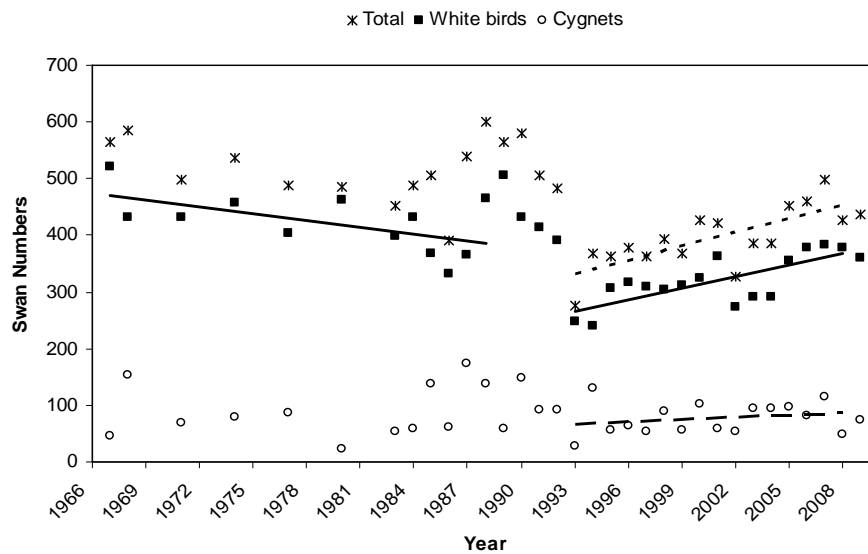


Fig. 6. Counts of swans in the Tri-state Area Flocks during the Fall Trumpeter Swan Survey, 1967-2009 (dotted, solid and dashed lines depict trends for total swans, white birds, and cygnets, respectively).

Table 1. Counts of trumpeter swans of the Rocky Mountain Population U.S. Breeding Segment during fall, 1967-2009.

Year	<u>Tri-state Area Flocks</u>			<u>Restoration flocks</u>			<u>RMP/U.S. Breeding Segment</u>		
	White birds	Cygnets	Total	White birds	Cygnets	Total	White birds	Cygnets	Total
1967	520	45	565	60	13	73	580	58	638
1968	431	154	585	58	20	78	489	174	663
1969	a			69	23	92			
1970				45	16	61			
1971	431	68	499	46	27	73	477	95	572
1972				42	16	58			
1973				42	7	49			
1974	457	80	537	35	9	44	492	89	581
1975				41	9	50			
1976				31	9	40			
1977	403	86	489	51	4	55	454	90	544
1978				39	15	54			
1979				41	42	83			
1980	462	23	485	71	26	97	533	49	582
1981				77	14	91			
1982				56	20	76			
1983	398	54	452	73	22	95	471	76	547
1984	431	58	489	65	9	74	496	67	563
1985	368	139	507	63	5	68	431	144	575
1986	331	61	392	34	26	60	365	87	452
1987	365	175	540	52	19	71	417	194	611
1988	464	137	601	49	9	58	513	146	659
1989	505	60	565	30	3	33	535	63	598
1990	432	147	579	36	11	47	468	158	626
1991	414	91	505	32	18	50	446	109	555
1992	390	92	482	75	6	81	465	98	563
1993	248	29	277	55	22	77	303	51	354
1994	239	130	369	63	22	85	302	152	454

Table 1. (cont.)

Year	<u>Tri-state Area Flocks</u>			<u>Restoration flocks</u>			<u>RMP/U.S. Breeding Segment</u>		
	White birds	Cygnets	Total	White birds	Cygnets	Total	White birds	Cygnets	Total
1995	307	55	362	58	7	65	365	62	427
1996	316	63	379	64	15	79	380	78	458
1997	310	54	364	48	15	63	358	69	427
1998	304	90	394	60	15	75	364	105	469
1999	312	56	368	35	14	49	347	70	417
2000	324	102	426	48	7	55	372	109	481
2001	362	59	421	54	12	66	416	71	487
2002	273	53	326	38 ^b	7 ^b	45 ^b	311 ^b	60 ^b	371 ^b
2003	291	95	386	30 ^b	1 ^b	31 ^b	321 ^b	96 ^b	417 ^b
2004	291	94	385	27 ^b	5 ^b	32 ^b	318 ^b	99 ^b	417 ^b
2005	355	98	453	49	8	57	404	106	510
2006	377	82	459	39 ^c	9 ^c	48 ^c	416 ^c	91 ^c	507 ^c
2007	383	115	498	28	1	29	411	116	527
2008	379	48	427	29	3	32	408	51	459
2009	361	75	436	35	2	37	396	77	473

^a Blank denotes value not calculated because of incomplete survey.

^b Data for only Malheur NWR and the Nevada flock included; Summer Lake WMA survey not completed.

^c Count biased low; only a portion of Summer Lake WMA surveyed.

Table 2. Counts of trumpeter swans of the Rocky Mountain Population U.S. Breeding Segment during fall, 1967-2009.

Year	<u>Montana</u>			<u>Idaho</u>			<u>Wyoming</u>			<u>Malheur NWR</u>			<u>Summer Lake WMA</u>			<u>Nevada</u>		
	White			White			White			White			White			White		
	birds	Cygnets	Total	birds	Cygnets	Total	birds	Cygnets	Total	birds	Cygnets	Total	birds	Cygnets	Total	birds	Cygnets	Total
1967	334	25	359	87	8	95	99	12	111	33	12	45	a			27	1	28
1968	242	123	365	88	6	94	101	25	126	34	11	45				24	9	33
1969	b									36	14	50				33	9	42
1970										37	13	50				8	3	11
1971	297	49	346	60	6	66	74	13	87	38	22	60				8	5	13
1972										32	13	45				10	3	13
1973										36	4	40				6	3	9
1974	296	49	345	71	17	88	90	14	104	29	9	38				6	0	6
1975										33	7	40				8	2	10
1976										23	8	31				8	1	9
1977	267	64	331	60	7	67	76	15	91	33	0	33				18	4	22
1978										24	13	37				15	2	17
1979	324	63	387							31	33	64				10	9	19
1980	315	6	321	73	11	84	74	6	80	53	15	68				18	11	29
1981										53	9	62				24	5	29
1982										38	17	55				18	3	21
1983	228	32	260	92	6	98	78	16	94	55	17	72				18	5	23
1984	268	22	290	80	21	101	83	15	98	40	6	46				25	3	28
1985	212	87	299	83	27	110	73	25	98	38	2	40				25	3	28
1986	174	28	202	83	14	97	74	19	93	19	24	43				15	2	17
1987	210	133	343	63	15	78	92	27	119	38	14	52				14	5	19
1988	268	77	345	87	28	115	109	32	141	33	8	41				16	1	17
1989	294	23	317	101	16	117	110	21	131	20	3	23				10	0	10
1990	245	108	353	92	28	120	95	11	106	27	7	34				9	4	13
1991	176	60	236	138	26	164	100	5	105	22	14	36	2	0	2	8	4	12
1992	156	74	230	109	8	117	125	10	135	28	6	34	34	0	34	13	0	13
1993	60	16	76	94	6	100	94	7	101	22	12	34	25	5	30	8	5	13

Table 2. (cont)

	<u>Montana</u>			<u>Idaho</u>			<u>Wyoming</u>			<u>Malheur NWR</u>			<u>Summer Lake WMA</u>			<u>Nevada</u>		
<u>Year</u>	White birds	Cygnets	Total	White birds	Cygnets	Total	White birds	Cygnets	Total	White birds	Cygnets	Total	White birds	Cygnets	Total	White birds	Cygnets	Total
1994	70	48	118	79	49	128	90	33	123	15	7	22	33	6	39	15	9	24
1995	84	17	101	118	21	139	105	17	122	11	3	14	34	3	37	13	1	14
1996	95	36	131	127	20	147	94	7	101	17	5	22	32	5	37	15	5	20
1997	88	18	106	112	19	131	110	17	127	16	7	23	15	2	17	17	6	23
1998	105	35	140	110	37	147	89	18	107	22	5	27	17	3	20	21	7	28
1999	120	21	141	103	23	126	89	12	101	11	3	14	8	6	14	16	5	21
2000	127	24	151	102	40	142	95	38	133	10	5	15	12	0	12	26	2	28
2001	140	9	149	124	23	147	98	27	125	11	12	23	12	0	12	31	0	31
2002	76	18	94	103	14	117	94	21	115	14	7	21	2 ^c	0 ^c	2 ^c	24	0	24
2003	89	29	118	100	27	127	102	39	141	11	1	12	2 ^c	0 ^c	2 ^c	19	0	19
2004	89	32	121	112	23	135	90	39	129	10	5	15	b			17	0	17
2005	112	40	152	136	22	158	107	36	143	20	5	25	12	3	15	17	0	17
2006	117	17	134	132	39	171	128	26	154	17	5	22	6	0	6	16	4	20
2007	157	41	198	113	15	128	113	59	172	11	0	11	0	0	0	17	1	18
2008	140	7	147	112	5	117	127	36	163	9	3	12	0	0	0	20	0	20
2009	138	21	159	122	21	143	101	33	134	4c	2c	6c	9	0	9	22	0	22

^aSwans translocated to Summer Lake WMA beginning in winter 1991; count from 1991 not used in analyses.

^bBlank denotes survey was not conducted.

^cIncomplete count; data not used in analyses.

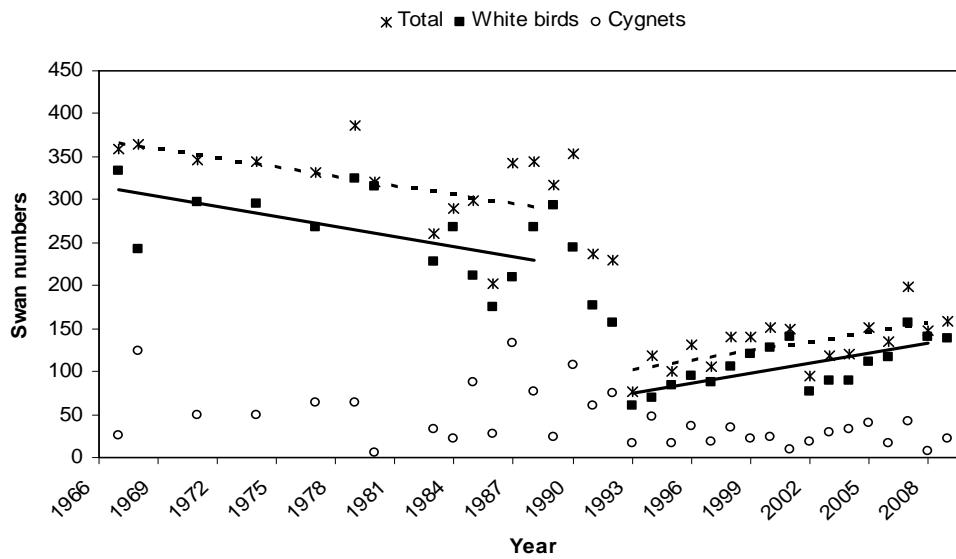


Fig. 7. Numbers of swans counted in Montana during the Fall Trumpeter Swan Survey, 1967-2009 (dotted and solid lines depict trends for total swans and white birds, respectively).

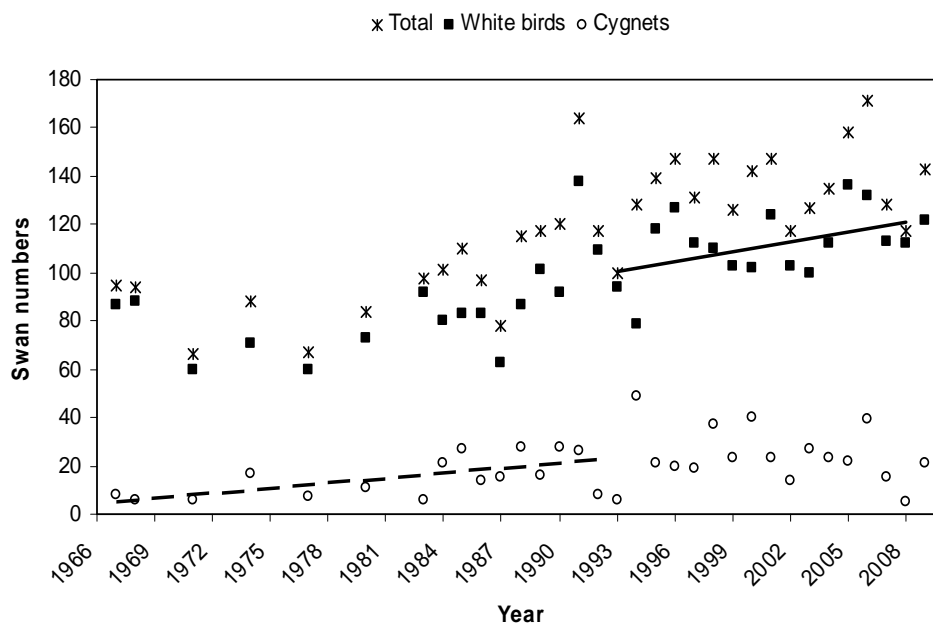


Fig. 8. Numbers of swans counted in Idaho during the Fall Trumpeter Swan Survey, 1967-2009 (solid and dashed lines depict trend for white birds and cygnets, respectively).

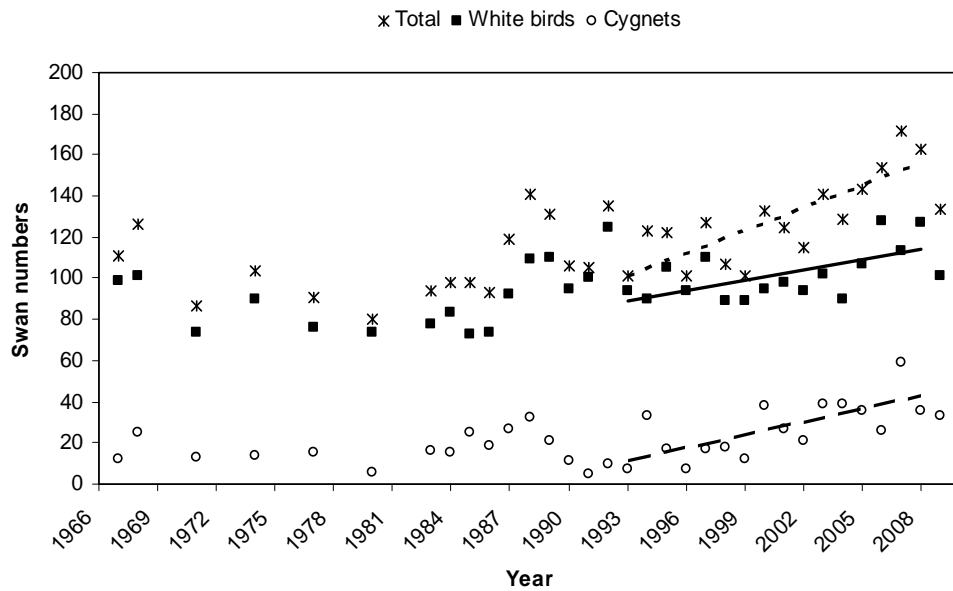


Fig. 9. Numbers of swans counted in Wyoming during the Fall Trumpeter Swan Survey, 1967-2009 (dotted, solid, and dashed lines depict trends for total swans, white birds, and cygnets, respectively).

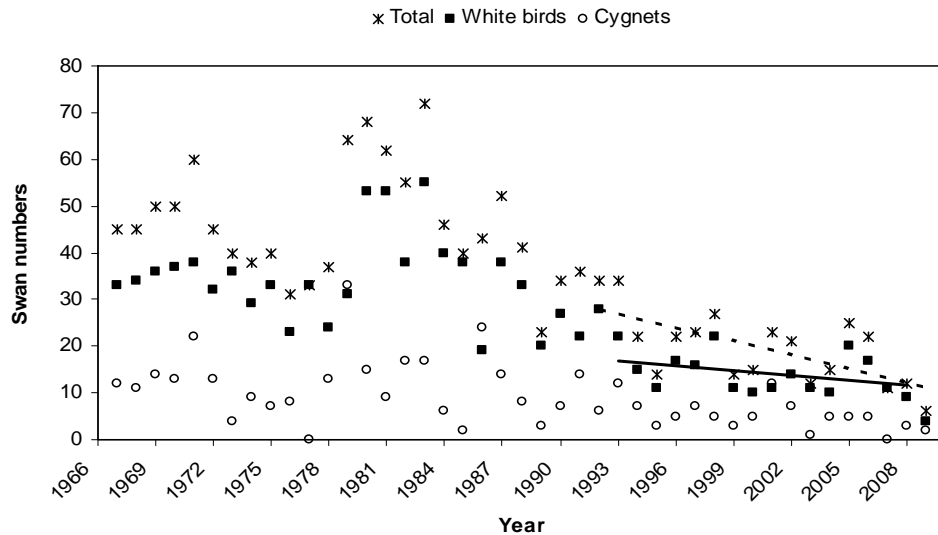


Fig. 10. Numbers of swans counted at Malheur NWR during the Fall Trumpeter Swan Survey, 1967-2009 (dotted and solid lines depict trends for total swans and white birds, respectively).

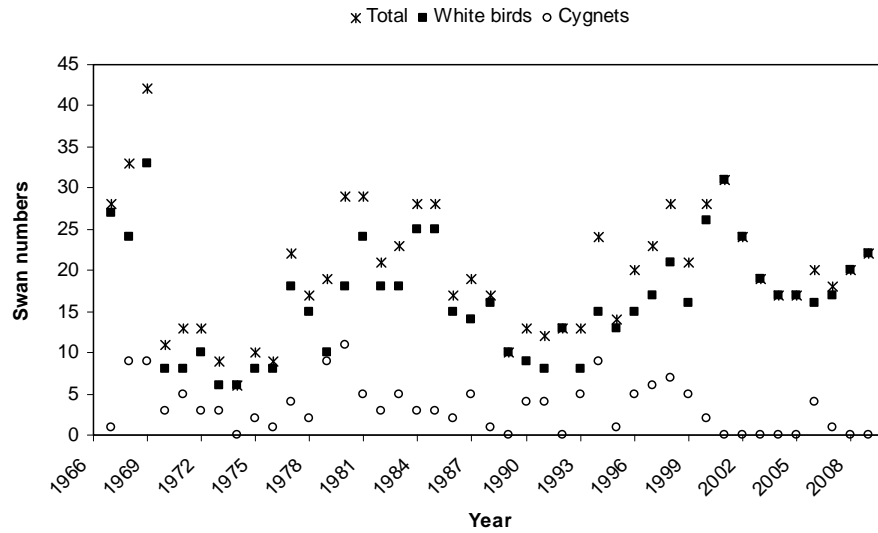


Fig. 11. Numbers of swans counted in the Nevada flock during the Fall Trumpeter Swan Survey, 1967-2009.

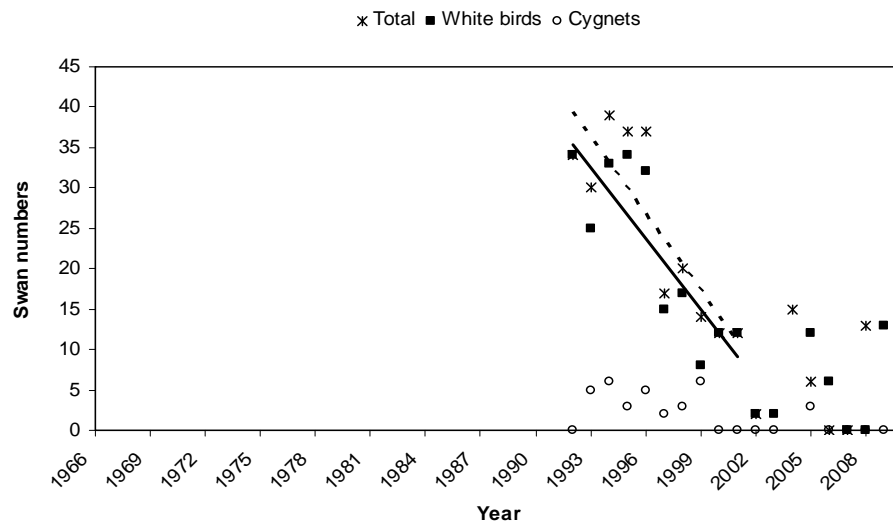


Fig. 12. Numbers of swans counted at Summer Lake WMA during the Fall Trumpeter Swan Survey, 1992-2009 (dotted and solid lines depict trends for total swans and white birds, respectively).

(excluding counts for Summer Lake WMA) declined markedly (-51%) between the falls of 1988 and 1993, and the 1993 count was 44% below the 1967-88 average (Fig. 5). No marked changes in abundance were apparent for restoration flocks (Figs. 10, 11).

Recent Trends

During 1993-2008, the growth rates for total swans and white birds in the RMP/U.S. Breeding Segment increased 1.8% and 2.0% annually, respectively ($P \leq 0.01$) (Fig. 5). However, no trend ($P = 0.51$) was evident for cygnets. Similar results were evident for swans in the Tri-state Area Flocks during the same period, but the rates for total swans (+2.1, $P < 0.01$) and white birds (+2.2, $P < 0.01$) were slightly greater (Fig. 6). For the Tri-state Area Flocks, the trend for cygnets also was increasing but not statistically significant (+2.6%, $P = 0.24$).

The rate of growth for total swans in Montana increased 2.9% per year during the 1993-2008 period ($P = 0.01$, Fig. 7), and the rate for white birds increased 3.9% per year ($P \leq 0.01$); the data for cygnets suggested no trend ($P = 0.57$). In Idaho, no trend ($P = 0.35$ and $P = 0.60$, respectively) was evident for either adults or cygnets (Fig. 8). However, the increase in the rate for white birds (+1.3% per year) was statistically significant ($P = 0.07$). For Wyoming during 1993-2008, total swans (+2.8% per year, $P < 0.01$), white birds (+1.5% per year, $P = 0.01$), and cygnets (+9.2 % per year, $P < 0.01$) increased (Fig. 9).

Because complete surveys of the Summer Lake WMA were not conducted during 2002-2004, we analyzed data for the Oregon flock by region (i.e., Malheur NWR, Summer Lake WMA). As mentioned above, the data for total birds and white birds at Malheur NWR suggested a piecewise regression with a breakpoint at 1983 would fit the data better than a simple linear regression. The decline of swans that occurred from 1984-91 (see above) continued during 1992-2008 for both total swans (-3.8% per year, $P = 0.04$) and white birds (-3.1% per year, $P = 0.08$) (Fig. 10). The rate for cygnets was unchanged ($P = 0.31$). At Summer Lake WMA, swans were translocated to the area beginning in winter 1991, so data from fall 1992-2001 were analyzed. Regression analyses indicated large negative rates of growth for total birds (-15.7% per year, $P = 0.03$) and white birds (-19.9% per year, $P = 0.03$) (Fig. 12). No trend in the rate of cygnets produced was evident ($P = 0.62$), but few cygnets ever have been produced at this location (0-6 per year, $\bar{x} = 2.4$). However, most birds were translocated to Summer Lake WMA during winter, primarily to alleviate potential negative impacts of high swan concentrations on habitats in the Harriman State Park area of eastern Idaho. Most swans remained in the area for only a few months after being translocated (M. St. Louis, personal communication). Thus, the steep decrease in the number of swans at Summer Lake WMA does not reflect the decline of an established nesting flock, but rather suggests only that few of the >600 swans translocated to this area during the early 1990s (Shea and Drewien 1999) survived, or that most moved elsewhere over time.

Counts for the entire time frame were used for analyses of the Nevada flock (see U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2003:7). No linear trends ($P \geq 0.29$) were evident for total swans and cygnets

(Fig. 11), although the linear trend for white birds (+1.0% per year) was statistically significant ($P = 0.07$).

Results from the 2009 survey

During fall 2009, observers counted 473 trumpeter swans in the RMP/U.S. Breeding Segment, a 3.1% increase from the count last year (459) (Table 1, Fig. 5). The total count of swans in the Tri-state Area Flocks (436) was 2.1% increase from the count last year (427) (Table 1). The number of white birds in the tri-state region (361) decreased for the second year in a row from the recent post-winter-feeding high count of 383 in 2007. The count of white birds decreased in Montana and Wyoming for the second year in a row, while they increased in Idaho. Increases of 7.5% and 18.2% in the total swan counts occurred in Montana and Idaho, respectively. Temperatures during spring were much cooler than average and significant amounts of rain continued into May in many areas within the nesting range of U.S. swans (Joint Agricultural Weather Facility 2009b). However, the cold weather doesn't appear to have had as negative an impact on production as last year, when only 48 cygnets were fledged.

The count for birds at Malheur NWR included 2 pairs of adults that each had 1 cygnet. The survey was conducted from the ground and resulted in an incomplete count because an aircraft could not be obtained to perform the survey for 2009. Ten swans were counted at Summer Lake Wildlife Management Area this year. Those 10 consisted of 6 cygnets translocated from Malheur NWR and 4 translocated from the Wyoming Wetlands Society. The count for Nevada was similar as in recent years; however, no cygnets were produced for the second year in a row. Further, no cygnets have been produced in Nevada during 7 of the last 9 years.

The cygnet counts increased from 2008 by 66.7% and 76.2% for Montana and Idaho, respectively. However, Wyoming cygnet production decreased by 9.1%. An index to production rate (i.e., cygnets/white birds) for Wyoming (.327) was slightly higher for the second year in a row than its long-term (i.e., 1967-2008) average (0.224). The indices for Montana (0.152) and Idaho (0.172) were below their long-term averages (0.269 and 0.206, respectively).

In addition to counts from the official survey areas, other entities are attempting to restore trumpeter swans within the U.S. nesting range of the RMP. Since 1996, The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have been releasing swans in the Flathead Valley of Montana and typically have about 30-40 birds in their release area during the fall. The Blackfoot Challenge (a private, non-profit conservation-oriented organization), working cooperatively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, also has released trumpeter swans on wetlands west of Helena, Montana during summer in 2005 (10 birds), 2006 (17 birds), 2007 (14 birds), 2008 (43 birds) and 2009 (29). All of these swans were captive stock of RMP origin, and were reared at facilities operated by the Wyoming Wetland Society. The birds from these and other reintroduction efforts are not included in the tables and figures in this report. In the future, if these efforts succeed in establishing nesting flocks, the birds will be included in the official counts. Additionally, results from a recent study indicate that trumpeter

swans nesting in British Columbia and Alberta, Canada, and those nesting in the tri-state region of the U.S. are not genetically different (Oyler-McCance et al. 2007). Therefore, during summers 2007, 2008 and 2009 eggs were collected from wild trumpeter swan nests in Canada to enhance reintroduction efforts for U.S. nesting flocks (B. Long, Wyoming Wetland Society, personal communication). The eggs were hatched in facilities of the Wyoming Wetland Society, and young eventually will be released to the wild according to recommendations in the management plan for this population.

Changes in point counts of animals can be influenced by several factors (i.e., mortality, animal movements, survey problems). As a result, attributing annual changes in abundance to a specific factor or even a suite of factors is inherently difficult. The Fall Trumpeter Swan Survey provides a good index to abundance, because managers and biologists have strived over the years to maintain consistency in areas surveyed and personnel who conduct the survey. Nonetheless, issues inherent in monitoring migratory birds can potentially affect the accuracy of a count. Also, no systematic surveys to detect swan mortality are conducted, nor are operational programs (e.g., banding, neck collaring) in place to estimate annual survival. Therefore, unless monitoring of these birds is increased, or well-designed research is conducted to examine their demographics, isolating causes for changes in annual counts will remain elusive.

The number of swans in the entire RMP/U.S. Breeding Segment increased from that of last year, as did the count for the Tri-state Area Flocks. Palmer Drought Indices suggest that June 2009 moisture conditions within the range of the RMP/U.S. Breeding Segment were below average and only slightly better than those of last year. The number of birds this fall remained below objectives stated in the management plan for this group of birds (Subcommittee on the Rocky Mountain Population of Trumpeter Swans 2008).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Appendix A. Site-specific counts of trumpeter swans of the Rocky Mountain Population/U.S. Breeding Segment during the Fall Trumpeter Swan Survey, 2009.

Montana	White birds	Cygnets	Total	Pilot/observer/notes
<i>Red Rock Lakes NWR</i>				P: D. Chapman; O: J. Warren, B. West (9/14)
Upper Red Rock Lake	6	1	7	
Upper Lake Outlet to River Marsh	0	0	0	
Swan Lake	5	4	9	
Shambo Pond	0	0	0	
River Marsh	2	2	4	
Lower Red Rock Lake	17	5	22	
West Pintail Ditch	0	0	0	
Widgeon Pond	2	0	2	
Sparrow Slough	0	0	0	
Sparrow Pond	0	0	0	
Shoveler Pond	0	0	0	
Culver Pond	1	0	1	
MacDonald Pond	0	0	0	
ElkSprings Creek	0	0	0	
Tucks Slough	8	0	8	
Red Rock Creek	0	0	0	
Antelope Pond	0	0	0	
Sora Pond	0	0	0	
Subtotal	41	12	53	
<i>Centennial Valley (CV)</i>				
Red Rock River	10	2	12	
Lima Reservoir	33	0	33	
Blake Slough	0	0	0	
Conklin Lake	5	0	5	
Elk Lake	2	0	2	
7L Wetland	0	0	0	
Mud Lake	0	0	0	
Shepherd Pond	22	0	22	Stibal pond, but not same as Stibal Lane pond
Huntsman Pond	0	0	0	Dry
Scheid Stock Pond	0	0	0	
Jones Pond	0	0	0	
Winslow Pond	0	0	0	
Winslow Creek	0	0	0	
Bean Creek Pond (tooth pond)	2	0	2	Twin Fork Pond
Pond, T16 R39 S28	0	0	0	
Sand Creek Wetland	2	0	2	New from last year
Subtotal	76	2	78	
<i>Madison Valley</i>				
Ennis Lake	0	0	0	
Walsh Ponds	4	0	4	
Madison River	0	0	0	
Hidden Lake	0	0	0	
Otter & Goose Lake	0	0	0	

Appendix A. (cont.)

Cliff Lake	0	0	0	
Wade Lake	0	0	0	
Tributary to Odell Creek	0	0	0	
Quake Lake	0	0	0	
Hebgen Lake (Madison Arm)	0	0	0	
Denny Creek (just south of Hebgen)	0	0	0	
Subtotal	4	0	4	
<i>Paradise Valley</i>				P,O: S Ard (9/17)
Sacagawea Park	0	0	0	
DePuy's-South	0	0	0	
Beaver Creek	0	0	0	
DePuy's-Main Lake	0	0	0	
DePuy's-North	0	0	0	
Armstrong's	12	7	19	
Bailey's	0	0	0	
Brandis'	0	0	0	
Brandis' North Fish Ponds Slough	0	0	0	
Diamond B	0	0	0	
Dana's	0	0	0	
Nelson's	0	0	0	
Paradise Valley Airport	0	0	0	
Yellowstone River (south of Emigrant)	0	0	0	
Emigrant Creek	5	0	5	
Emigrant Pond	0	0	0	
Subtotal	17	7	24	
Idaho				
<i>Island Park/Upper Henry's Fork</i>				P: C. Anderson; O: C. Mitchell (9/16-17)
Henry's Lake	0	0	0	
Henry's Lake Flat	0	0	0	
Big Springs to Mack's Inn	0	0	0	
Henry's Fork	0	0	0	
Subtotal	0	0	0	
<i>Shotgun Valley</i>				
South Shore Island Park Reservoir	14	0	14	Island Park Reservoir quite full
Sheep Creek Reservoir	0	0	0	
Icehouse Reservoir	2	2	4	
Shotgun Reservoir	0	0	0	
North shoreline Island Park Reservoir	0	0	0	
Sheridan Reservoir	0	0	0	
Sheridan Creek (cabin with pond)	0	0	0	
Twin ponds on Icehouse Creek	0	0	0	
Subtotal	16	2	18	

Appendix A. (cont.)

<i>Harriman State Park</i>				
Henry's Fork above Osbourne Bridge	4	0	4	
Henry's Fork below Osbourne Bridge	1	0	1	
Silver Lake	2	4	6	
Golden Lake	9	0	9	
Pond east-northeast of Golden Lake	0	0	0	
Thurman Creek	2	0	2	
Fish Pond	1	0	1	
Subtotal	19	4	23	
<i>Upper Henry's Fork Area</i>				
Buffalo River	0	0	0	
Henrys Fork-Box Canyon to Harriman State Park	0	0	0	IP Dam to HSP
Trude Siding-Pond/Elk Creek complex	0	0	0	
Tom's Creek	0	0	0	
Blue Spring	0	0	0	
Last Chance Pond-north	0	0	0	
Last Chance Pond-south	0	0	0	
Henry's Fork below Pine Haven	0	0	0	
Boy Scout (Boundary) Pond	0	0	0	Old Eccles number 3
Boy Scout swimming lake	0	0	0	
Eccles Butte Northeast	0	0	0	Old Eccles East
Eccles wetland #1	0	0	0	NE of Fish Pond
Eccles wetland #2	0	0	0	One mile west of Eccles Wetland #1
Eccles wetland #4	0	0	0	State section pond
Eccles wetland #5	2	0	2	
Swan Lake (west)	0	0	0	
Hatchery Butte Road ponds	0	0	0	
Lilypad Lake (Pineview)	0	0	0	
Hatchery Butte	0	0	0	
North of Hatchery Butte	0	0	0	
Beaver Pond (Gerrit)	0	0	0	
Railroad Pond	2	0	2	
Pond northeast of Gerrit	0	0	0	
Mesa Marsh	1	1	2	
Northwest of Mesa Marsh	2	0	2	
Bear Lake and Cub Lake	0	0	0	Cub lake dry
Twin Lakes	0	0	0	
Porcupine Lake	0	0	0	
Beaver Lake	0	0	0	Very low water
Rock Creek and adjacent pond	0	0	0	
Lower Goose Lake	0	0	0	
Upper Goose Lake	0	0	0	
Long Meadows	0	0	0	
Swan Lake (east-Falls River)	0	0	0	
Steele Lake	0	0	0	
Putney Meadows	0	0	0	
Falls River Ridge complex-4 ponds	0	0	0	
Thompson's Hole	2	0	2	
Pond west of Thompson's Hole	0	0	0	
Chain Lakes	0	0	0	

Appendix A. (cont.)

Fall River Canyon	0	0	0	
Horseshoe Lake	0	0	0	
Tule Lake and adjacent ponds	0	0	0	
Subtotal	9	1	10	
<i>Teton Basin</i>				
McReynolds Reservoir	0	0	0	
Teton Basin	1	0	1	
Subtotal	1	0	1	
<i>Lower Henry's Fork</i>				
Upper Arcadia Reservoir	0	0	0	
Lower Arcadia Reservoir	0	0	0	
Marsh northwest of Upper Arcadia Reservoir	0	0	0	
Mikesell Reservoir 1	3	0	3	
Mikesell Reservoir 2	3	0	3	
Sand Creek Wildlife Management Area and springs	3	0	3	
Sand Creek below Wildlife Management Area	1	0	1	
Wetlands west of Ashton	2	0	2	
Willow Creek ponds	0	0	0	
Chester Reservoir	0	0	0	
West of Chester Dam	0	0	0	
Singleton Ponds	4	0	4	
Lemon Lake	0	0	0	
Mackerts Pond	0	0	0	
Pond +/- 1 mile north of St. Anthony	0	0	0	
Deer Park Wildlife Management Area	0	0	0	
Cartier Slough Wildlife Management Area	0	0	0	
Davis Lake	0	0	0	
Egin Lakes	0	0	0	
Quayle's Lake	0	0	0	
Henry's Fork above Menan Butte	0	0	0	
Lower Henry's Fork to east of Market Lake	0	0	0	
Snake River	0	0	0	
Subtotal	16	0	16	
<i>Camas NWR</i>				
Toomey Pond	0	0	0	
2-Way Pond	0	0	0	
Rays Lake	1	0	1	
Center Pond	0	0	0	
Big Pond	0	0	0	
First pond north of Sandhole Lake	0	0	0	
Sandhole Lake	11	0	11	
Avocet Pond	0	0	0	
Redhead Pond	0	0	0	
Camas Creek	1	0	1	Between NWR and WMA
Mud Lake Wildlife Management Area	0	0	0	
Market Lake Wildlife Management Area	3	0	3	
Pond southeast of Market Lake	0	0	0	
Subtotal	16	0	16	

Appendix A. (cont.)

<i>Grays Lake NWR</i>				
Shorty's Cabin	2	0	2	
Buck Lake (west of Bear Island)	0	0	0	
Big Springs Area	0	0	0	
Bishop Island	2	0	2	
B Riley Point (northwest of Bear Island)	0	0	0	
Outlet (main)	0	0	0	
Big Bend Marsh	7	1	8	
Brockman Creek	0	0	0	Off refuge
Outlet Creek (north of road)	0	0	0	
North Canal	1	0	1	
South Canal	0	0	0	
Lakefront ponds (west of Headquarters)	6	3	9	
Kackley/Gravel Creek	0	0	0	
Beavertail	0	0	2	
Crane Reservoir (Little Valley)	0	0	0	
Chubb Springs	0	0	0	
Reservoir south of Wayan	0	0	0	
Crane Creek	5	4	9	
Subtotal	25	8	33	
<i>Soda Springs Area</i>				
5-Mile Meadow	0	0	0	
Miller Pond	0	0	0	
Soda Creek - Miller > Cellan Reservoir	0	0	0	
Cellan Reservoir	0	0	0	
Soda Creek-spring creek west of Soda Springs	0	0	0	
Chester Basin	0	0	0	
Alexander Reservoir	0	0	0	Water very low-drawn down for dam repair
Alexander Siding	0	0	0	
Woodall Springs	0	0	0	
Blackfoot Reservoir	0	0	0	
Chicken Creek wetlands	0	0	0	
Subtotal	0	0	0	
<i>Bear Lake NWR</i>				
Rainbow Unit	3	1	4	
Rainbow Subunit	2	0	2	
Alder Unit	0	0	0	
Mud Lake Unit	0	0	0	
Salt Meadow Unit	0	0	0	
Dingle Unit	0	0	0	
West Canal Unit	0	0	0	
Saint Charles Unit	0	0	0	
Bloomington Unit	2	5	7	

Appendix A. (cont.)

Subtotal	7	6	13	
<i>Fort Hall Bottoms</i>				
Head of Clear Creek	5	0	5	
American Falls Reservoir-northwest corner	5	0	5	
Kinney Creek	0	0	0	
Clear Creek above Sheepskin Road	0	0	0	
Clear Creek below Sheepskin Road	1	0	1	
Mouth of Portneuf River	2	0	2	
Flying Y	0	0	0	
Slough west of Flying Y	0	0	0	
Sloughs along Broncho Road	0	0	0	
Diggie Creek	0	0	0	
Big Jimmy Creek	0	0	0	
Springfield Reservoir	0	0	0	
Sterling Wildlife Management Area	0	0	0	
Subtotal	13	0	13	
<i>Lower Snake River</i>				
American Falls Reservoir - Minidoka NWR	a			Did not survey
C. J. Strike Reservoir				Did not survey
Subtotal				
<i>Minidoka NWR</i>				Did not survey
<i>Other Idaho</i>				
Pond near Bear River southwest of Grace				
Chesterfield Reservoir	0	0	0	
Wetland on Toponce Creek				
Wetlands east of Blackfoot	0	0	0	
Subtotal	0	0	0	
<i>Central and Western Idaho</i>				
White Arrow Ponds (Bliss)				No reports as of 9/18/09
Fairfield Gravel Pit				No reports as of 9/18/09
Silver Creek (Picabo)				No reports as of 9/18/09
Oxford Slough Waterfowl Production Area	0	0	0	
Swan Lake (Bannock County)	0	0	0	
Subtotal	0	0	0	
Wyoming				
<i>Yellowstone National Park</i>				P: S Ard; O: L. Baril (9/17)
Geode Lake	0	0	0	
Crescent Pond	0	0	0	
Slough Creek	0	0	0	
Tern Lake	0	0	0	

Appendix A. (cont.)

Yellowstone Lake west-northwest of Molly Island	0	0	0	
Yellowstone Lake south arm	0	0	0	
Yellowstone Lake - Yellowstone River delta (se arm)	0	0	0	
Beach Springs	0	0	0	
Heart Lake	0	0	0	
Yellowstone River, Alum-Grizzly Overlook	0	0	0	
Yellowstone River, north of Fishing Bridge	0	0	0	
Yellowstone River, Hayden Valley	0	0	0	
Boundary Creek	0	0	0	
Boundary Creek Pond	0	0	0	
Buela Meadow (Lake)	2	0	2	
Lilypad Lake	0	0	0	
Junco Lake	0	0	0	
Riddle Lake	0	0	0	
Falls River	0	0	0	
Upper Boundary Lake	0	0	0	
7-Mile Bridge	0	0	0	
Swan Lake	0	0	0	
Robinson Lake	0	0	0	
Little Robinson	0	0	0	
West Robinson Lake	0	0	0	
Bechler Meadow	0	0	0	
Lower Madison River	0	0	0	
Nymph Lake	0	0	0	
Grizzly Lake	0	0	0	
Obsidian Lake	0	0	0	
Floating Island Lake	0	0	0	
Trumpeter Lake	0	0	0	
North Kidney Lake	0	0	0	
Grebe Lake	0	0	0	
Yellowstone Delta	0	0	0	
Winnegar Lake	0	0	0	
South Arm - Grouse	0	0	0	
East end of Mary Bay	0	0	0	
Delusion Pond	0	0	0	
Northwest of Winegar Lake	0	0	0	
Fern Lake	0	0	0	
Cascade Lake	2	0	2	
Pelican Creek (mouth)	0	0	0	
Goose Lake	0	0	0	
Tanager Lake	0	0	0	

Appendix A. (cont.)

Subtotal	4	0	4	
<i>Upper Snake River/Targhee National Forest</i>				P: D. Stinson; O: S. Patla (9/18)
Ernest Lake				Dry
Bergman Reservoir	0	0	0	Dry
Indian Lake	2	0	2	Lost 4 cygnets
Squirrel Meadows	0	0	0	Dry
Boone Creek	0	0	0	
Widget Lake	0	0	0	
Junco Lake	0	0	0	
Moose Lake	0	0	0	
Loon Lake	0	0	0	
Rock Lake	0	0	0	
Fish Lake	0	0	0	
Grassy Lake Reservoir	0	0	0	
Subtotal	2	0	2	
<i>Bridger-Teton National Forest-Jackson</i>				
Arizona Lake	0	0	0	
Blackrock Ranger Station pond/sloughs	2	0	2	Slough behind houses
Enos Lake				No recent report of swans
Bridger Lake				No recent report of swans
Atlantic Creek				No recent report of swans
Lily Lake				No recent report of swans
Pinto Pond	2	4	6	1 cygnet lost
Half Moon Lake	0	0	0	Water low
Tracy Lake	0	0	0	
Hatchet Pond	0	0	0	
Burnt Fork Potholes	0	0	0	
Upper Slide Lake	2	0	2	
Goose Lake	0	0	0	
Lower Slide Lake	0	0	0	
Soda Lake	0	0	0	
Bradley Lake (Snake River Canyon)				Not summer habitat
Subtotal	6	4	10	
<i>Grand Teton National Park</i>				
Polecat Slough	0	0	0	
Flagg Ranch gravel pits	0	0	0	
Elk Ranch Reservoir	2	0	2	
Hedrick Pond	0	0	0	
Swan Lake	0	0	0	
Christian Pond	0	0	0	
Glade Creek north	0	0	0	
Glade Creek south (north of Tusker's Island)	0	0	0	
Glade Creek cliff slough	0	0	0	
Steamboat Mountain	0	0	0	
Jackson Lake north	5	0	5	2 pair plus single on river north of Lizard Point
Jackson Lake south	10	0	10	2 pair plus group of 6
Two Ocean Lake				

Appendix A. (cont.)

Emma Matilda Lake				
Dam to Moran, Snake River	0	0	0	
Moran to Moose, Snake River				
Subtotal	17	0	17	
<i>National Elk Refuge</i>				
Visitor Center ponds	0	0	0	
Southwest Main Marsh	0	0	0	
Northwest Main Marsh (near overlook)	4	0	4	2 pairs
Southeast Main Marsh	2	1	3	
Northeast Main Marsh	1	0	1	
Miller/Winnegar Springs	2	0	2	
Shop pond	0	0	0	
Pierre Pond east	0	0	0	
Pierre Pond west	0	0	0	
Romney Pond #2	2	3	5	
Nowlin Ponds	0	0	0	
Flat Creek north	0	0	0	
Subtotal	11	4	15	
<i>Jackson Area</i>				
Tucker Pits				
Skyline Pond (Puzzleface Ranch)	0	0	0	
Boyles Hill area	2	0	2	Reported Bill Long
Highway 89 winter pen	0	0	0	
South Park Unit, Wyoming Game & Fish Dept.	2	4	6	
Treatment Plant ponds	0	0	0	
Subtotal	4	4	8	
<i>Upper Green River (north of Warren Bridge)</i>				
Potholes north of Mosquito Lake				Winds picked up had to shorten survey
Mosquito Lake	0	0	0	
Wagon Creek Lake				
Rock Crib Lake				
Mud Lake				
Roaring Fork Pond				
Dollar Lakes	0	0	0	
Upper Green River above Big Bend	2	0	2	
Carney Slough	2	0	2	
Carney fish pond	0	0	0	3 cygnets lost earlier
Green River Big Bend to Black Butte	1	0	1	
QY Bar Reservoir				
Green River Black Butte to Warren Bridge	0	0	0	
Spade Slough	0	0	0	
New Fork Potholes/Marsh Creek				
Kendal Wetland	2	3	5	
New Fork River (north of highway 191)	0	0	0	
Kitchen Reservoir north	2	2	4	
Kitchen Ranch Reservoir main	2	1	3	
Soda Lake area				

Appendix A. (cont.)

Fayette Ranch ponds				
Subtotal	11	6	17	
<i>New Fork River & Big Sandy to Farson area</i>				
New Fork River Pinedale to Boulder	2	0	2	
Fayette Ranch New Fork ponds	2	0	2	
Boulder Sloughs	0	0	0	
Oliver Slough (Barden)	1	0	1	
Swift Reservoir	1	0	1	
New Fork to confluence with Green	2	0	2	Jenson slough
Big Sandy/Big Bend	0	0	0	
Big Sandy/Eden reservoirs	0	0	0	
Farson area	0	0	0	
Subtotal	8	0	8	
<i>Seedsdakee NWR (SNWR) and lower Green River</i>				
Green river, north of refuge HQ	5	0	5	
Main Marsh Hawley, Pool 1, SNWR	2	3	5	2 gray and 1 white cygnet
Main Marsh Hawley, Pool 2, SNWR	3	0	3	Pair plus 1 adults at nest site
Main Marsh Hawley, Pool 3, SNWR	1	4	5	Family nested in pool 2
Main Marsh Hawley, Pool 4, SNWR	2	3	5	
Main Marsh Hawley, Pool 5, SNWR	1	0	1	
Main Marsh Hawley, Pool 6, SNWR	0	0	0	
Main Marsh Hawley, Pool 7, SNWR	1	0	1	
Main Marsh Hawley, channel, SNWR	0	0	0	
Headquarters Marsh, SNWR	0	0	0	
North Marsh Hamp, SNWR	0	0	0	
Sagebrush Wetland, SNWR	2	5	7	Lost 2 cygnets
Dunkle Wetland, SNWR	0	0	0	
Green River south of Highway 28, SNWR	2	0	2	
Green River Highway 28 to dam, SNWR	3	0	3	
Subtotal	22	15	37	
<i>Green River Fontenelle Reservoir north to Daniel</i>				
Fontenelle Reservoir	8	0	8	
Big Piney cutoff, Green River	0	0	0	
Dry Piney Creek area, Green River	0	0	0	
La Barge pond (private)	2	0	2	
Ferry Island Slough	4	0	4	
Daniel, Cottonwood Creek area	0	0	0	
Subtotal	14	0	14	
<i>Hamm's Fork</i>				
McNaughton Reservoir, Hamm's Fork	0	0	0	No recent reports
Hamm's Fork north of Kemmerer	0	0	0	
Subtotal	0	0	0	
<i>Salt River</i>				
Palisades Reservoir, Alpine wetland	2	0	2	

Appendix A. (cont.)

Kibby wetland, Alpine	0	0	0	
Salt River, Alpine to Freedom	0	0	2	
Salt River, Freedom to Afton	0	0	0	
Subtotal	2	0	2	
<i>Other Wyoming</i>				
Swamp Lake, Sunlight Basin	0	0	0	
Colony Site, eastern Wyoming	0	0	0	
Trail Lake, Dubois	0	0	0	Report from pilot need to check
Subtotal	0	0	0	
Nevada				
Ruby Lake NWR	22	0	22	P: J. Romero; O: J. Mackay, N. Saake (9/16)
Franklin Lake	0	0	0	Dry
Oregon				
Malheur NWR	4	2	6	O: Gary Ivey, incomplete survey, ground only
Summer Lake Wildlife Management Area	6(4)	0	6(4)	M. St. Louis, 6 of 10 were cygnets from Malheur NWR and 4 of 10 were from WY Wetlands Society
Warner Valley				
Thompson Reservoir	1	0	1	Just south of Sycan Marsh
Gutierrez Ranch – Cook County	2	0	2	

^aBlank denotes area not surveyed.

Appendix B. Personnel who conducted the 2009 Fall Trumpeter Swan Survey in the U.S.

Montana (Red Rock Lakes NWR, Centennial Valley, Madison Valley)

Observer: J. Warren, B. West (Red Rock Lakes NWR)

Pilot: D. Chapman (Montana Aircraft, Inc.)

Montana (Paradise Valley)

Pilot/Observer: S. Ard (Yellowstone National Park)

Idaho

Observer: C. Mitchell (Southeast Idaho NWR Complex)

Pilot: C. Anderson (AvCenter)

Wyoming

Observer: S. Patla (Wyoming Game and Fish Department)

Pilot: D. Stinson (Sky Aviation)

Wyoming (Yellowstone National Park)

Observer: L. Baril (Yellowstone National Park)

Pilot: S. Ard (Yellowstone National Park)

Ruby Lake NWR and vicinity

Observer: J. Mackay (Ruby Lake NWR), N. Saake (contractor)

Pilot: J. Romero (Owyhee Air Services)

Malheur NWR

G. Ivey (International Crane Foundation)

Summer Lake WMA

M. St. Louis (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife)
