



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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TRUMPETER SWANS GAINING IN SURVIVAL FIGHT

The rare trumpeter swans, nearly extinct in this country 50 years ago, now show a population of 642 birds, the Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

This year's annual census, conducted recently by the Service and the National Park Service, shows a gain of 65 over last year's count of 577.

Federal refuges and parks sheltering the species accounted for the majority of this year's swans. In national wildlife refuges in Montana 380 birds were found and national parks in Wyoming sheltered 99.

As tallied by States, 452 of the birds nested in Montana last summer. Of these, 355 were counted at Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. Next was Wyoming, with 130 birds with 87 located at Yellowstone National Park where trumpeters have been protected for many years. Idaho accounted for 45, Oregon 8 and Nevada 7.

The swans were given limited Federal assistance in 1907, when small flocks were discovered at Red Rock Lakes and Yellowstone Park, and preliminary restoration efforts were launched. Federal protection by a law, which imposed penalties, became effective in 1924. In 1935 Red Rock Lakes refuge was established and the protection program was stepped up. Only 73 trumpeters were accounted for at that time.

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