

Trumpeter Swans: 40 Years of Conservation

21st Trumpeter Swan Society Conference

Whitehorse, Yukon Territory

16-19 April, 2008

We will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Trumpeter Swan Society in the beautiful wilderness city of Whitehorse, Yukon Territory during the annual Yukon Celebration of Swans. The conference will have special focus on swans in western Canada and Alaska. There will also be sessions dealing with Trumpeter populations in other parts of the continent, Tundra Swans, and the future of swan conservation. There will be a full-day field trip to see the concentrations of Trumpeter and Tundra swans and other waterfowl at several spring migration areas near Whitehorse.

Preliminary Agenda

Wed 16 April 0900-1700 Board of Directors Meeting
 1700-2000 Informal reception, registration

Thur 17 April 0900-1200 Presentations
 1330-1600 Presentations
 1615-1700 TTSS business meeting and elections
 1830-2100 Special evening event at Beringia Centre

Fri 18 April 0830-1700 Field Trip to swan viewing areas south of Whitehorse.

Sat 19 April 0900-1200 Presentations
 1330-1630 Presentations
 1900-2130 Banquet and Silent Auction (cash bar)

Sun 20 April 0900-1200 incoming Board of Directors Meeting.

Call for Papers

We invite anyone to submit relevant papers and posters for inclusion in the program. A detailed call for papers is available on our website.

Conference Registration.

You can register in advance. Because of the near-parity of US and Canadian currency, we will accept payment in either one.

Print the registration form (available [here](#) by 10 Feb, 2008 and in the next issue of Trumpetings), fill out, and mail along with your cheque or money order payable to **21st Trumpeter Swan Society Conference** to either:

(U.S. residents, pay in U.S. dollars)

Trumpeter Swan Society
 12615 County Road 9 – Suite 100
 Plymouth, Minnesota
 55441-1248
 U.S.A.

(Canadian residents, pay in Canadian dollars)

21st Trumpeter Swan Society Conference
 c/o Environment Canada
 Canadian Wildlife Service
 91780 Alaska Hwy
 Whitehorse, YT
 Y1A 5B7
 Canada

Basic Registration

	Normal	Student	Daily rate
On or before March 15, 2008	\$50.00	\$20.00	\$25
After March 15, 2008	\$70.00	\$30.00	

Additional

Banquet Saturday April 19	\$35.00
Field Trip Friday April 18 (includes transportation and lunch)	\$20.00

Travel

If you are coming to the conference in Whitehorse from the U.S., or if you are a Canadian traveling to Whitehorse via the U.S., avoid unpleasant surprises -- know the rules and carry the appropriate identification documents.

Further information:

Check the U.S. Department of State website <http://www.travel.state.gov/>

Canada Border Services Information for Visitors to Canada

You must carry proper identification and comply with Canadian regulations regarding the importation of goods.

Please see:

<http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/pub/rc4161-eng.html>

U.S. Customs and Border Protection – information for U.S. Citizens

<http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/vacation/>

Air Access to Whitehorse

Whitehorse can be easily reached by major airlines from the gateway cities of Vancouver, Edmonton, or Calgary. Calgary and Edmonton are served by Air North Boeing 737 service, while Vancouver is served by Air North (<https://www.flyairnorth.com>) Boeing 737 service and by the smaller regional jets of Air Canada. Most cities have service at least daily, and all flights are approximately 2 hours.

Air Canada (www.aircanada.com) is the Official Canadian Airline of the 21st Trumpeter Swan Society Conference. Air Canada is offering special discount prices to eligible passengers. These fares are applicable for travel to and from Whitehorse during the period 11 April to 24 April, 2008. To obtain these fares you must use a Promotion Code (**BE9GK741**).

Some conference attendees may wish to consider a more scenic and leisurely route to Whitehorse via Juneau and Skagway, Alaska. Check below for details on this option.

Road Access

Whitehorse is also accessible via the Alaska Highway from Dawson Creek B.C., the Stewart-Cassiar Highway from Smithers, B.C., and the South Klondike Highway from Skagway, Alaska. From the north you can drive to Whitehorse from Valdez, Anchorage, or Fairbanks, Alaska. At this time of year road conditions tend to be very good and the days are quite long.

Marine Access to Skagway

For ferry times to Skagway (a 2-hour drive from Whitehorse) via the Alaska Marine Highway System go to

http://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/Plan/Schedules/documents/winter07/SE_W07.pdf

Venue

The conference will be held at the High Country Inn. A special room rate is available for conference attendees: single or double room \$95.00 (Cdn) per night plus 5% tax. To get this rate you need to quote the group # for the conference: **24870**. You can make reservations toll-free at 1-800-554-4471. Consider sharing a room if you are on a tight budget as the rate is the same single or double.

For more information about the High Country Inn, see:

<http://www.highcountryinn.yk.ca/>

Transportation in Whitehorse

Most conference attendees will not need a rental car unless they wish to do some sight-seeing before or after the conference. The hotel provides a complimentary shuttle to and from the airport. The hotel is only about 4 blocks from the centre of downtown, where there are plenty of stores and places to eat. The “big box” stores are a 20-30 minute walk. Whitehorse also has a public transit system. If you do want a rental car, consider sharing the cost with another attendee.

Weather

This is early spring in Whitehorse. There will likely still be snow on the ground, but there will be lots of sunshine. The average daily maximum for April is +7 C and the average daily minimum is -5 C. It can be windy, especially on the field trip, so bring a good windbreaker with a few layers to wear underneath, along with a hat and gloves or mitts. You won't need any special footwear beyond a good pair of walking shoes. Sunglasses are a good idea. The climate is very dry, and April is the driest month of the year, so raingear is not necessary.

Other Information for Visitors

Take some extra time and make your 21st Conference visit to Whitehorse a truly memorable one!

When landscape architect legend Ian McHarg viewed the interspersed Trumpeter Swan habitat and mountains while flying from Anchorage to Juneau, he commented how nice it was to see "a place where God is still in charge". TTSS members accustomed to the suburban/agricultural landscape where most Trumpeters are getting established in the lower 48, may get the same impression when they visit Whitehorse for the 2008 conference.

Staying in Whitehorse itself at this time of year is a great experience. Nice paths on the banks of the mighty Yukon River are a few steps from hotels, with flocks of migrating swans – Trumpeters and Tundras – often overhead during the rapidly-increasing hours of daylight, provide an unforgettable experience.

Saving some time to drive or fly out for a closer look see can greatly enhance this experience. Thousands of tourists visit this region each summer without the inducement of witnessing the swan migration and the good fellowship of a TTSS conference. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity. There are many possibilities for excursions both before and after the conference -- including Skagway, Haines, Kluane National Park, dog-mushing, cross-country skiing – the list goes on.

For more information or to order your free vacation planner check out the Yukon Tourism web site:

<http://www.travel yukon.com>

Information about Whitehorse can be found on the city web site (note the visitor info link on the right side of the page):

<http://www.city.whitehorse.yk.ca/>

for those interested in Wildlife Viewing

<http://environment yukon.gov.yk.ca/wildlifebiodiversity/wildlifeviewing.php>

The Juneau/Skagway/Whitehorse connection

For those with a bit of extra time, one alternative to reaching Whitehorse via Air Canada or Air North is flying to Juneau, Alaska, followed by a ferry ride to Skagway, Alaska, and driving over the coast range which was such a challenge for the 1898 gold rush hordes.

We can make it easy for you to enjoy this “Trail of '98” option. You would arrange your own travel from your home town to and from Juneau. If desired, TTSS board member Jim King can provide advice on accommodations/activities etc. in Juneau. Traveling from Juneau to Whitehorse is most economical and scenic via the Alaska Marine Highway (i.e. ferry) from Juneau to Skagway followed by a 160 km drive over the spectacular Coast Mountains to Whitehorse. For a small fee, the drive to and from Whitehorse for conference participants can be arranged by your Whitehorse hosts via a rented van – complete with local color commentary and photo stops along the way.

Detailed Alaska Marine Highway Ferry schedules, fares, and other information are available online at:
<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/>

The current version of the ferry schedule for April 2008 indicates that immediately prior to the conference there are ferries departing Juneau at:

0630 h on Mon 14 April 2008, arriving Skagway at 1330 h.

0700 h on Wed 16 April 2008, arriving Skagway at 1330 h.

Following the conference there are departures from Skagway at:

1215 h on Sun 20 April 2008, arriving Juneau at 1600 h

0900 h on Tue 22 April 2008, arriving Juneau at 1600 h

If you want to pursue the Juneau option, please let us know so we can lay out the welcome mat for you!

[Jim Hawkings](#) (Whitehorse) and [Jim King](#) (Juneau).