

Swans on Ice



Trumpeter Swans on ice.

At first glance, it seems these swans are swimming.

They are not swimming.

They are sitting on the ice.

They are obviously waiting for spring.

I took this photo on March 2, 2016. Sorry about the low resolution.

This pair of swans has nested here for several years.

Well, actually, since all Trumpeter Swans look amazingly similar, I am assuming these are the owners and not a pair of claim jumpers.

Probably a safe assumption.

Trumpeter Swans were essentially extinct in Minnesota for 100 years.

There are now thousands.

The pond is four acres in size.

It is secluded.

It is shallow and weedy with lots of cattails and other vegetation.

Near perfect swan habitat.

Trumpeter Swans are the largest waterfowl with wingspans approaching ten feet.

They mate for life at 3 or 4 and live well over 20 years

They produce two to five cygnets each year.

Swans are territorial. This pair is here early in part to keep other swans away.

Like hundreds of other swans, they winter on the Mississippi near Monticello. The Monticello Nuclear Power Plant discharges cooling water into the river a few miles upstream of Monticello. Over the past forty years, thousands of ducks, geese, and swans have learned to winter there.

Good habitat is where you find it.

Tom