

TUNDRA SWAN TRIVIA



1. Estimated flight speed of swans:
 - a. Spring- 37 to 70 kms
 - b. Fall- 48 to 59 kms
2. Spring Migration lasts approximately 106 days
3. Three Methods of tracking devices used:
 - i. 95 gram backpack
 - ii. Antennae up- 30 gram neck collar attached
 - iii. No antennae 30 gram neck collar
4. They have also used black and white nub collars with alpha-alphanumeric codes
5. The time required to raise cygnets to an age when they can migrate varies between 102 and 117 days
6. Eastern population has surpassed 100,000 birds and a limited sport harvest was initiated in 1983. This increase has been attributed to their declining use of traditional aquatic food and increased reliance on readily available, highly nutritious agricultural grains on wintering and staging areas
7. The birds spend:
 - a. 20% of their cycle on wintering areas
 - b. 29% of their cycle on breeding
 - c. 51% of their cycle on staging- 28% of their cycle in spring, 23% of their cycle in fall
8. Average lifespan of a swan is 18 to 20 years (living with ideal conditions)
9. Swans will fly anywhere between 1,000 to 15,000 feet!!!
10. Tundra swans spend 20% of the year (73 days in their wintering sites~ Chesapeake Bay area USA)
11. The swans spend 51% of the year migrating (186.15 days)
12. Swans spend 29% of the year nesting in the north (105.85 days). This is the critical time for the future of the species. The egg has cygnets have 73.85 days to become big enough and strong enough for the return flight to their wintering areas.
13. On their migration flight north in the spring, there are three staging areas. The first being in our area (Grand Bend to Long Point and any area in between). The second is North Dakota- Southern Manitoba. The third is Northern Alberta. The nesting area if they go the full route is the Mackenzie Delta & area. A 6,000 km plus trip. Some however, fly to the Hudson Bay- Nunavut area to nest after leaving the second staging area.