

# Cass County's Trumpeter Swans

## Winter of 1997/1998

4 Trumpeter Swans (most present in one day: 4)

*All entries refer to Schildberg Quarry unless otherwise marked*

**December 18, 1997-January 2, 1998**

(Reported by Melanie Perry)

F75

F74

F48

F35

- **F74** is a female that hatched in 1996 by the Minnesota Zoo from an egg obtained in Alaska. It was raised in Spencer by a private individual and released at Spirit Lake in 1997. No other confirmed sightings until it reached Atlantic.
- **F75** was first reported as a male with the same information as F74. F75 again spent the winter in Atlantic during the winter of 1999/2000, it is paired with OF6. The pair was reported at Union Slough 2/21/00 and stayed until fall when they were reported back in Atlantic for the winter of 2000/2001. They were again reported at Union Slough on 3/14/01. F75 and OF6 were one of six successful nesting pairs of wild Trumpeter Swans in Iowa during the 2001 season. Five of the six eggs hatched on 6/5/01 at Union Slough. The DNR quickly realized that F75 is a female. OF6 was found shot near Union Slough in early November, 2001. F75 arrived back in Atlantic with all five of her cygnets for the winter of 2001/2002. Shortly after arriving back to Union Slough (late Feb, early March, 2002), F75 hit a power line and died. F75 (now known as "Faithful" for her consistent visits to Cass County) is now mounted and resides in the Cass County Conservation Board office.
- **F48**: DNR received this cygnet as a donation from a private game breeder in Iowa in 1994. This male was released at Spirit Lake in the spring of 1996. It has been spotted several times since its release: Riverton, IA 12/16/96; Liberty Missouri 1/7/97; Peculiar, Missouri 1/11/97 (It over wintered in the Liberty area); Spirit Lake, IA 4/12/97 inside the pen where it was released; Charles City, IA 5/3/97 where it met up with F21 (who joined these other birds in Atlantic, but had a fatal encounter with a power line.); Spirit Lake 6/6/97 (with his buddy F21) molted inside the pen where it was released; Atlantic was the next spotting site.
- **F35**: Eggs hatched by the NE Wisconsin Zoo in Green Bay, WI. This female was released at Union Slough (near Titonka, IA) in 1996. It wintered last winter in Woolstock, IA. It has also been seen in Armstrong IA 4/28/97; Union Slough 5/26/97; Smith Slough (Ruthven, IA) on 6/1/97 and spent the rest of the summer at Inham Lake near Graettinger, IA: Auburn, IA 11/19/97; next sighting was in Atlantic.

## Winter of 1998/1999

**Nothing on Record**

# Winter of 1999/2000

4 Trumpeter Swans (most present in one day: 4)

*All entries refer to Schildberg Quarry unless otherwise marked*

## December 25, 1999-February 15, 2000

(Bob Moore reported their arrival, Andria Cossolotto reported their departure)

F75

OF6

6F7

1 unmarked adult

- **F75** first visited Atlantic during the winter of 1997/1998...see previous records for more details.
- **6F7** released in 1998 from Union Slough (by Algona), sex unknown.
- **OF6** hatched at the Minnesota Zoo from eggs that were brought in from Alaska. This male was released from Spirit Lake in 1998. OF6 paired with F75 in 1999. Upon leaving Atlantic, the pair was reported at Union Slough February 21, 2000 and stayed until fall, when they returned back to Atlantic for the winter of 2000/2001. OF6 and F75 were again reported near Union Slough on 3/14/01. They were one of six successful nesting pairs of wild Trumpeter Swans in Iowa in the spring of 2001. Five of the six eggs hatched on 6/5/01 at Union Slough. OF6 was found shot near Union Slough in early November, 2001.

# Winter of 2000/2001

\*Andria Cossolotto and/or Bob Voggeser reported all records from this point on\*

8 Trumpeter Swans (most present in one day: 8)

*All entries refer to Schildberg Quarry unless otherwise marked*

## November 23, 2000 – March 6, 2001

OF6

F75

## November 23, 2000-March 17, 2001

0619-24007 silver Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) band on leg

3 unmarked adults

2 unmarked cygnets

- **OF6** first visited Atlantic during the winter of 1999/2000...see previous records for more details.
- **F75** first visited Atlantic during the winter of 1997/1998...see previous records for more details.
- **0619-24007 (later 8T7)** is a female that hatched near Star Lake in Wisconsin in 1992. She was released in Vilas County in far northern Wisconsin in 1993 (as green 28KN). 0619-24007 became 8T7 in February, 2003. 8T7 most likely stopped through Atlantic in February, 2002, as we reported a swan with a silver leg band and no other tags, with a group of three other unmarked adults. In 2003 8T7 mated with 6C7 (previously unmarked) at an unknown location and they arrived with one cygnet. 8T7 also spent the 2003/2004 winter in Atlantic.

# Winter of 2001/2002

12 Trumpeter Swans, 1 Mute Swan (most present in one day: 6, plus 1 Mute Swan)

*All entries refer to Schildberg Quarry unless otherwise marked*

## December 25, 2001 – February 13, 2002

F75 and her five cygnets

- F75 first visited Atlantic during the winter of 1997/1998...see previous records for more details.
- Ron banded four of the five young (one got away) in Atlantic on January 8, 2001. They were given the tags P78-P81.

0619-33440	P78	Female
0619-33441	P79	Male
0619-33442	P80	Female
0619-33443	P81	Female

- F75, P78 and P80, P81 and the unmarked young left Atlantic in the morning of 2/13/02, leaving behind P79.
- **P78** is a wild hatch (spring 2001) male (originally sexed as female) offspring of F75 and OF6. In 2002 it paired with H19. They mated at Union Slough in the spring of 2003 and produced five cygnets. P78 hit a powerline and died on November 25, 2003. On November 26, 2003 H19 and only one of the five cygnets arrived in Atlantic. The unmarked cygnet became 7C2.
- **P79** is a wild hatch (spring 2001) male offspring of F75 and OF6. P79 has been having trouble flying for long distances; it even fell from the sky and landed on it's back (in the water) at one point. Bob Voggeser reported that it won't eat the corn he provides. Ron, Bob and I kept in touch and then, for a few days he appeared to be doing better, flying and eating, but he (P79) quickly worsened and died at the quarry on 3/9/02.
- **P80** is a wild hatch (spring 2001) female offspring of F75 and OF6. Nine reports of P80 from after it's departure here through June of 2004 have this bird visiting several locations in Kossuth County including, Union Slough, Smith Lake and this one: P80 has paired with P16 and is alive and well near Union Slough 11/10/03 (Plum Creek Wildlife Area). On 12/20/04 P80 was reported with P16 at Moorland Park, just southwest of Fort Dodge. P80 arrived in Atlantic, with its mate P16, on 1/14/05 and stayed until 1/17/05. On 5/19/05 it was seen with mate P16 nesting at Union Slough, according to Rebecca Rasmussen, the Wildlife Biologist, they have been "trying to pull off a clutch the last couple of years". On 1/27/06 it was reported at Smith Lake (five miles north of Algona, IA) with P16 and three cygnets. The family was reported on 2/1/06 at Union Slough (near Algona). In the spring of 2006 the pair hatched six cygnets at Union Slough they were still at Union Slough on 7/20/06.
- **P81** is a wild hatch (spring 2001) female offspring of F75 and OF6. P81 died of unknown causes at Union Slough in early spring, 2002.

## January 27, 2002 - March 22, 2002

A Mute Swan

## February 15, 2002 - February 22, 2002

- 4 "unmarked" Trumpeter Swans, one of them had a silver leg band (couldn't get close enough to read it). Possibly the same group from last year???

## February 24, 2002 - February 24, 2002 (for only 2 or 3 hours)

J44 and J56

- **J44** was a female born at Ventura Marsh, near Clear Lake in the year 2000. She was released in Russel, IA.
- **J56** is a male born at a private site in Clinton, Iowa in the year 2000 and was donated. It was also released in Russel, Iowa on 5/24/01. It was reported near Wichita, KS on 1/10/02. It was again reported in Kansas, near Onaga, on 11/9/03.

## Spring 2002

### March 22, 2002

- On 3/22/02 Dave Hoffman placed two Trumpeter Swans on a pond owned by Blaine Behnken, two miles east and two miles south of the 148 and 92 intersection. Both swans are unable to fly and will hopefully produce young that will be released in the state. The female (H02) is four years old and has hit a power line and is unable to fly. The male (258 leg band) is eight years old and has successfully mated with a female that has passed away, his wings are clipped. Blaine volunteered his pond to help with the Trumpeter Swan Restoration Program in memory of Marty Bailey, Dustin McCurdy and Nate Downer. The male (258) was acting sick and was taken to a Spirit Lake rehabilitator and died of lead poisoning on 12/28/05.

## Winter of 2002/2003

13 Trumpeter Swans (most present in one day: 13)

*All entries refer to Schildberg Quarry unless otherwise marked*

### November 23, 2002-see below for length of time here

- 2 unmarked adult swans arrived at quarry (possibly have leg bands, never saw out of water)

### November 29, 2002-see below for length of time here

- 2 unmarked adult swans arrived at quarry (possibly with leg bands, never saw out of water), now total of 4

### December 9, 2002-see below for length of time here

2F7

J43

P78

H19

P17

J35

J66

2 additional adult unmarked

### February 19, 2003

- Bob Voggesser captured 7 swans in fence (4 unmarked) and Dave Hoffmann from DNR came down to tag them. They became:

0619-34152    Male    8T5

0619-34153    Male    8T6

0619-24007    Female    8T7 (WI had it sexed as male)

0619-34154    Female    8T8

- **8T7** first visited Atlantic during the winter of 2000/2001, see previous records for more details.
- **P78** first visited Atlantic during the winter of 2001/2002...see previous records for more details.
- One of the “unmarked”, not sure which of the six, has a silver USFWS leg band, but we can’t get close enough to read it.
- **2F7** is a female that hatched in 1997. She was released at Union Slough in April, 1999. She has paired with J43. 2F7 has been reported in Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota and several Iowa counties. In the spring of 2003 this pair mated and produced four cygnets just SW of Blue Earth, MN. According to the landowner, the pair had been there in the summers for a couple of years. 2F7 spent the winter of 2003/2004 in Atlantic with four cygnets and J43. One of her cygnets disappeared from the quarry area on 12/6/03 or 12/7/03. It is presumed dead. 2F7 and J43 returned to Atlantic again in the winter of 2004/2005 with two cygnets, it is assumed that they nested SW of Blue Earth, MN in spring of 2004. On 7/21/05 the pair was reported nesting with six young near Blue Earth, MN. 2F7 and J43 spent the winter of 2005/2006 at the Atlantic Quarry with two unmarked cygnets, one of which died on 12/30/05 after hitting a powerline, the other hit a power line on 1/13/06 and was then hit by at least one vehicle. The swan died that day. 2F7 and J43 spent the winter of 2006/2007 in Atlantic bringing 3 cygnets with them. The family left Atlantic on January 16, 2007 and were reported at Lake Waukomis (about 20 miles south of Kansas City) on January 26, 2007. 2F7 and J43 were reported to have hatched four cygnets at Pilot Grove WPA just SW of Blue Earth, MN in the spring of 2007.
- **J43** is a male that hatched in 2000 from an Iowa private propagator. It was released three miles NE of Ruthven, IA on 5/21/01. It has been reported in Sac, Kossuth, Boone, and Cass counties in Iowa. It is paired with 2F7 and in the spring of 2003 this pair mated and produced four cygnets just SW of Blue Earth, MN. J43 spent the winter of 2003/2004 in Atlantic. One of the cygnets disappeared from the quarry on 12/6/03 or 12/7/03. The cygnet is presumed dead. J43 and 2F7 returned to Atlantic again in the winter of 2004/2005 with two cygnets, it is assumed that they nested SW of Blue Earth, MN in spring of 2004. On 7/21/05 the pair was reported nesting with six young near Blue Earth, MN. J43 and 2F7 spent the winter of 2005/2006 at the Atlantic Quarry with two unmarked cygnets, one of which died on 12/30/05 after hitting a power line, the other hit a power line on 1/13/06 and was then hit by at least one vehicle. The swan died that day. J43 and 2F7 spent the winter of 2006/2007 in Atlantic bringing 3 cygnets with them. The family left Atlantic on January 16, 2007 and were reported at Lake Waukomis (about 20 miles south of Kansas City) on January 26, 2007. J43 and 2F7 were reported to have hatched four cygnets at Pilot Grove WPA just SW of Blue Earth, MN in the spring of 2007.
- **H19** is a female that hatched in 1999 from an Iowa private propagator. She was released at Union Slough on 5/13/00. It has been reported in Kossuth, Ringgold, Hamilton, Boone and Cass Counties in Iowa and also, Squaw Creek, MO on 3/22/01. She mated with P78 at Union Slough in the spring of 2003 and produced five cygnets that made it to flight stage, although, she arrived to the Atlantic quarry in the winter of 2003/2004 with only one cygnet, 7C2. Mate P78 is presumed dead. She left the quarry on March 13, 2004 alone, after she had not doing well for several weeks (attempted capture on March 8, 2004 was unsuccessful). H19 was reported at Union Slough on 11/17/04 and at Beemer’s Pond (5 miles west of Webster City) on 12/17/04. She was later reported at Union Slough on 6/1/05 with an unmarked mate and four cygnets. H19 was again at Beemer’s Pond on 12/1/05. On 6/2/06 it was reported at Union Slough with its unmarked mate and their three young (one of original four have died). They were still there on 7/20/06. On 5/20/07 it was reported with its unmarked mate at Union Slough (S. of Blacktop B14) and three cygnets.
- **P17** is a female that hatched in 2001 and came from the Memphis, TN Zoo. She was released at Union Slough on 5/13/02. She spent the summer of 2002 at Union Slough and visited Boone County before arriving here.
- **J35** is a female that hatched in 2000. She was released in Emmet County on 5/12/01. She has been reported in four of Iowa’s counties. On 2/26/03 she was found dead after being sick at the quarry.
- **J66** is a female that hatched in 2000. It was released nine miles west of Jolley, IA on 5/11/01. It has been reported in several Iowa counties and in Baschor, Kansas on 1/15/02.

- **8T5** is a male that first wintered in Atlantic in 2002/2003. 8T5 and 8T8 are a pair, after they left Atlantic on 3/15/03, they were reported in Rockwell City on 3/21/03. We presume that 8T5 is dead because it did not arrive at the quarry with 8T8 in the winter of 2003/2004.
- **8T6** is a male that first wintered in Atlantic in 2003/2003. 8T6 again wintered in Atlantic in 2003/2004. It is assumed that it was hatched in the wild in Wisconsin in 2001 or before. It's paired with 7C0 (previously unmarked) and nested at an unknown location (WI, perhaps) in the spring of 2003, producing six cygnets. 8T6 spent the winter of 2003/2004 in Atlantic. Two of the cygnets disappeared from the Atlantic quarry on 12/6/03 or 12/7/03. They are presumed dead. 8T6 and 7C0 returned to Atlantic in the winter of 2004/2005 with one cygnet hatching from an unknown location (Wisconsin ?). 8T6 and 7C0 again returned to Atlantic in the winter of 2005/2006 with five cygnets hatching from an unknown location (possibly have a sixth cygnet that arrived a few hours later than the others and is seen most often with this family, occasionally it's seen off by itself). There are no records of these swans anywhere besides Schildberg Quarry sightings. 8T6 and 7C0 spent the winter, with one cygnet, of 2006/2007 in Atlantic.
- **8T8** is a female that first wintered in Atlantic in 2002/2003. It is assumed that it was hatched in the wild in Wisconsin in 2001 or before. 8T8 and 8T5 are a pair, after they left Atlantic on 3/15/03, they were reported in Rockwell City on 3/21/03. 8T8 again wintered in Atlantic in 2003/2004. We presume that 8T5 is dead because she did not arrive at the quarry with 8T8 in the winter of 2003/2004. After leaving the Atlantic quarry on 2/26/04, 8T8 was later reported among 300 other swans in Monticello, MN on 3/12/04 and at Rebecca Park Reserve (Maple Plain, MN) on 12/3/04, it now seems to have an unmarked mate.

### **February 20, 2003...5 of the 13 headed north at 7:11 a.m.**

2F7, P17, P78, J43, and H19

### **February 26, 2003**

J35 was found dead. It had been sick for about 2 months...7 remain

### **March 15, 2003**

All remaining swans gone (8T5, 8T6, 8T7, 8T8, J66, and two unmarked).

Bob Voggeser and I both had seen 3 at the quarry on 3/14/03 and by 3/15/03 they were all gone.

## **Summer 2003**

### **June 19 & 20, 2003**

Blaine Behnken's captive pair hatched four cygnets.

- The four were released at Mormon Trail Lake (Adair County) on March 29, 2004 and became: OH1, OH2, OH3 and OH4
- **OH1**, 2003 hatch year male of Blaine Behnken's captive pair, was released at Mormon Trail Lake (Adair County) on 3/29/04. It was found swimming on a small pond, unharmed one mile northeast of the lake on private land on 5/26/04. It was rescued by Dave Hoffman, DNR, and was later released at Anderson Lake (2 miles NE of Jewell, IA Hamilton Co) on 5/16/05. OH1 was next reported at Ada Hayden Heritage Park, Ames, IA Story Co. on 12/1/05. On April 14, 2006 it was reported on Boone River (Belk Mills Park) three miles northeast of Stanhope, IA in Hamilton County. On October 25<sup>th</sup> OH1 was reported at Pella Pond one mile east of Story City. On January 7, 2007 OH1 was reported in Olathe, KS at Neighborhood Lake located at 119 and Woodland roads. On March 4, 2007 it was reported on a 3-4 acre pond five miles southwest of Kearney, MO.

- **OH2**, 2003 hatch year male of Blaine Behnken's captive pair, was released at Mormon Trail Lake (Adair County) on 3/29/04. It was found dead (killed by an unknown predator) one mile northeast of the lake on private land on 5/26/04.
- **OH3**, 2003 hatch year female of Blaine Behnken's captive pair, was released at Mormon Trail Lake (Adair County) on 3/29/04. After unknown predators killed two of the four released swans, OH3 remains missing.
- **OH4**, 2003 hatch year male of Blaine Behnken's captive pair, was released at Mormon Trail Lake (Adair County) on 3/29/04. It was found dead (killed by an unknown predator) one mile northeast of the lake on private land on 5/26/04.

## Winter of 2003/2004

22 Trumpeter Swans (most present in one day: 22)

*All entries refer to Schildberg Quarry unless otherwise marked*

### November 13, 2003 (~8:30 a.m. - ~4:00 p.m.)

*At Cold Springs Park*

8T7

unmarked adult

unmarked cygnet

8T6

unmarked adult

6 unmarked cygnets

### November 26, 2003-February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004

8T8-adult (arrived first, by itself in early morning) followed by...

#### Family 1

8T6-adult

7C0-adult\*

7C1-cygnets\*

7C3-cygnets\*

6C8-cygnets\*

6C9-cygnets\*

2 unmarked cygnets\*\*

#### Family 2

2F7-adult

J43-adult

3C3-cygnets\*

3C4-cygnets\*

7C4-cygnets\*

1 unmarked cygnets\*\*

#### Family 3

H19-adult

7C2-cygnets\*

#### Family 4

J23-adult

1-unmarked adult\*

#### Family 5

8T7-adult

6C7-adult\*

3C5-cygnets\*

\*unmarked upon arrival at quarry 11/26/03

\*\*three cygnets disappeared on 12/6/03 or 12/7/03, two were later found dead.

- 8T7 first visited Atlantic during the winter of 2000/2001...see previous records for more details.
- 2F7, J43, H19, 8T6, and 8T8 first visited Atlantic during the winter of 2002/2003...see previous records for more details.
- **7C0** (619-35435) is a female, banded in Atlantic on 1/22/04. It's paired with 8T6 and nested at an unknown location (WI, perhaps) in the spring of 2003, producing six cygnets. Two of the cygnets disappeared from the Atlantic quarry on 12/6/03 or 12/7/03. They are presumed dead. 7C0 and 8T6 returned to Atlantic in the winter of 2004/2005 with one cygnet that hatched in an unknown location (Wisconsin?). 7C0 and 8T6 returned to Atlantic in the winter of 2005/2006 with five unmarked cygnets hatching from an unknown location (possibly have a sixth cygnet that arrived a few hours later than the others and is seen most often with this family, occasionally it's seen off by itself). There are no records of these swans anywhere besides Schildberg Quarry sightings. 7C0 and 8T6 spent the winter, with one cygnet, of 2006/2007 in Atlantic.

- **7C1** (619-35436) is a 2003 male, wild offspring of 8T6 and 7C0 (hatched at an unknown location, possibly WI) and was banded in Atlantic on 1/22/04. On 10/21/04 it was reported 5 miles SE of Fergus Falls, MN (Sec. 20, T132N - R42W) with 6C8. "They have been observed on 3 different wetlands in the past 5 days." 7C1 returned to Atlantic in the winter of 2004/2005, it appeared sick for several days and died on 1/1/05.
- **7C3** (619-35438) is a 2003 female, wild offspring of 8T6 and 7C0 (hatched at an unknown location, possibly WI) and was banded in Atlantic on 1/22/04. On 10/21/04 it was reported 5 miles SE of Fergus Falls, MN (Sec. 20, T132N - R42W) with 6C8. "They have been observed on 3 different wetlands in the past 5 days."
- **6C8** (619-35433) is a 2003 male, wild offspring of 8T6 and 7C0 (hatched at an unknown location, possibly WI) and was banded in Atlantic on 1/22/04. 6C8 was reported on approx. 4/9/04 at a private gravel pit in Sac County. Sec. 24, T87N, R36W. It was still there as of 4/23/04. On 10/21/04 it was reported 5 miles SE of Fergus Falls, MN (Sec. 20, T132N - R42W) with 7C1. "They have been observed on 3 different wetlands in the past 5 days." 6C8 returned to Atlantic in the winter of 2004/2005 and again in 2005/2006.
- **6C9** (619-35434) is a 2003 female, wild offspring of 8T6 and 7C0 (hatched at an unknown location, possibly WI) and was banded in Atlantic on 1/22/04. It was spotted in Monticello, MN on 12/17/04 and arrived in Atlantic on 12/20/04. After leaving Atlantic on 1/17/05 it was next reported on a pond at the intersection of Fir Road and County Road F16 in Shelby County on 3/3/05. 6C9 was reported for one day only on 11/21/05 ½ mile east of Monticello, MN along with 323 other swans.
- **3C3** (619-34198) is a female, 2003 wild MN (just SW of Blue Earth) hatch, banded in Atlantic on 1/12/04, offspring of 2F7 and J43. She was later reported at Thorpe Park in Winnebago County, Iowa on 3/8/04 and then at Union Slough on 6/24/04. 3C3 returned to Atlantic in the winters of 2004/2005 and 2005/2006. It is paired with 5C5. Bob V. reported that this swan left the quarry on 1/27/06 and then returned again on the morning of 2/1/06, later that day it was reported at Union Slough. It again was reported at Union Slough on 5/25/06 with 5C5 and they were still there on 7/20/06. On November 10, 2006 3C3 arrived with 5C5 and 3C4 and spent the winter of 2006/2007 at the Schildberg Quarry. On March 5, 2007 3C3 was reported in Dallas County with 5C5.
- **3C4** (619-34199) is a female, 2003 wild MN (just SW of Blue Earth) hatch, banded in Atlantic on 1/12/04, offspring of 2F7 and J43. She was later reported at Thorpe Park in Winnebago County, Iowa on 3/8/04. 3C4 returned to Atlantic in the winter of 2004/2005. 3C4 was reported in a corn field four miles north of Clear Lake with one adult and one cygnet on 4/26/05. 3C4 was reported at Union Slough on 6/7/05 with 7C4 and three unmarked cygnets (not a nesting pair, just a group of five swans). 3C4 was again reported at Union Slough on 8/2/05. 3C4 returned to Atlantic for the winter of 2005/2006. On 6/2/06 it was reported at Union Slough and was still there on 7/20/06. On November 10, 2006 3C4 arrived with 5C5 and 3C3 and spent the winter of 2006/2007 at the Schildberg Quarry. On 3/7/07 3C4 was reported at Severe's pond 3 miles south of Nora Springs in Floyd County, IA with 8K9, 6H9 and 7H6.
- **7C4** (619-35439) is a female, 2003 wild MN (just SW of Blue Earth) hatch, banded in Atlantic on 1/22/04, offspring of 2F7 and J43. 7C4 returned to Atlantic in the winter of 2004/2005. 7C4 was reported at Union Slough on 6/7/05 with 3C4 and three unmarked cygnets (not a nesting pair, just a group of five swans). 7C4 and 3C4 returned to Atlantic for the winter of 2005/2006. 7C4 hit a power line on 1/13/06 and landed near Highway 83. It then walked back to the quarry and was unable to fly off of the quarry until 1/19/06. It seems to be improving each day. 7C4 was reported at Hanlontown Slough (Hanlontown, IA) with 5C0 on 3/22/06 (also present were P05 and 5H5). 7C4 was reported at Union Slough on 5/13/06 with 5C0. They were still there on 7/20/06. 7C4 arrived with 5C0 and spent the winter of 2006/2007 in Atlantic.
- **7C2** (619-35437) is a 2003 male, wild offspring of H19 and P78 (nested at Union Slough), banded in Atlantic on 1/22/04. He was later reported at Thorpe Park in Winnebago County, Iowa on 3/8/04, at Smith Lake (North of Algona) on 5/17/04 and then arrived at Beemer's Pond for the winter (near Webster City) on 11/11/04. After leaving Beemer's Pond on 1/4/05, it was not reported again until 11/25/05 ½ mile east of Monticello, MN with approx. 350 other swans. By 12/1/05 it had arrived at Beemer's Pond, near Webster City and by 12/5/05, 7C2 had arrived in Atlantic.



- **J23** is a 1999 female hatchling from the Jackson, MS Zoo. She was released at Union Slough on 5/13/02. She was reported at Union Slough on 7/11/02 and 11/11/02. The next reported sighting was here in Atlantic. After leaving here on Feb. 2/26/04, she was reported on 3/14/04 on a pond near Kossuth Co Road B14, one mile east of Hwy 169 (in the Burt, IA area).
- **6C7** (619-35432) is an adult male, banded in Atlantic on 1/22/04.
- **3C5** (619-34200) is a 2003 male offspring of 8T7 and 6C7 (assuming a wild nest in MN), banded in Atlantic on 1/12/04. 3C5 either hit a powerline or was hit by a vehicle 5 miles SW of Gibbon in Sibley County, MN on approx. 12/17/04, she was in poor condition with four broken ribs and was taken to Hinshaw's Rehabilitation Center. On 1/28/05 DNR's Dave Hoffman released him at the Schildberg Quarry where it is eating well and taking a few small flights, but not socializing with the other 13 swans. All other swans left the Atlantic Quarry that winter in early to mid March but 3C5 stayed and appeared to have a broken wing. By the end of March 2005 it was showing signs of improvement and was not seen again.

### **December 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>, 2003**

3 unmarked cygnets missing

1 unmarked from 2F7, J43 family

2 unmarked from 8T6, 7C0 family

### **December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2003**

1 dead cygnet recovered from field north of Atlantic, had hit power line

### **February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

1 dead unmarked adult recovered from quarry (had been sick for several days)  
found to have lead poisoning

### **March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

H19 improved and headed north (had stayed behind after others left...it had been ill, attempted capture 3/8/04)

### **March 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2004**

8T6, 7C0, 7C1, 7C3, 6C8, 6C9 came back

## **Spring 2004**

### **May 31, 2004**

Blaine Behnken's flightless pair had six healthy cygnets.

- Four of the six cygnets were released at Lake Anita (Cass County) on April 6, 2005 and became: 5H2, 5H3, 5H4 and 5H5. Josh Peach, Lake Anita DNR, reports first seeing them fly at the beginning of August, they first left the park at the end of September, Dave Hoffman's wife saw them flying approximately 80 yards above her on I-80 in mid October. They haven't been seen at the park since the beginning of November 2005.
- Two of the cygnets were released at Anderson Conservation Area near Red Oak, IA (Montgomery County) on April 6, 2005 and became: 5H0 and 5H1.
- **5H0**, 2004 hatch year of Blaine Behnken. Released at Anderson Conservation are near Red Oak, IA (Montgomery County) on April 6, 2005.

- **5H1**, 2004 hatch year male of Blaine Behnken's captive pair, was released at Anderson Conservation Area, near Red Oak, IA (Montgomery County) on 4/6/05 and was next reported at Early Lagoon in Sac County, IA with mate J47 on 5/18/06.
- **5H2**, 2004 hatch year male of Blaine Behnken's captive pair, was released at Lake Anita (Cass County) on 4/6/05 and next was reported with 5H5 and 2H8 near Butler, MO (Bates County, 50 miles south of Kansas City) on 12/26/05 and had been there for at least a week. On 1/18/06 5H2 was reported at Marais des Cygnes NWR (Pleasanton, KS, Linn County) with 5H5, 2H8 and one cygnet. On 2/13/06 5H2, 5H5 and 2H8 along with two other adults and a juvenile were reported in the southern part of Miami County, Kansas (south of Beagle, KS) and have been there since 2/1/06. It was last reported in the area on 2/27/06. In early June, 2006, 5H2 joined 6K2 and 5K8 at Lake Anita, in Cass County, IA. 5H2 was next reported at the intersection of 665<sup>th</sup> St and Keystone Rd in Cass County, Iowa from Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>-November 1, 2006 along with swan 6K2.
- **5H3**, 2004 hatch year of Blaine Behnken. Released at Lake Anita (Cass County) on April 6, 2005.
- **5H4**, 2004 hatch year female of Blaine Behnken's captive pair, was released at Lake Anita (Cass County) on 4/6/05 and next was found dead on December 10, 2005 one mile southeast of Nevada, Missouri. The X-ray showed no signs of broken bones or gun shot wounds. There were two surviving swans with it when it died, one unknown and one was 7T2.
- **5H5**, 2004 hatch year male of Blaine Behnken's captive pair, after being released at Lake Anita on 4/6/05, was last reported at Lake Anita on 8/5/05 and was next reported with 5H2 and 2H8 near Butler, MO (Bates County, 50 miles south of Kansas City) on 12/26/05 and had been there for at least a week. On 1/18/06 5H5 was reported at Marais des Cygnes NWR (Pleasanton, KS, Linn County) with 5H2, 2H8 and one cygnet. On 2/13/06 5H5, 5H2 and 2H8 along with two other adults and a juvenile were reported in the southern part of Miami County, Kansas (south of Beagle, KS) and have been there since 2/1/06. It was last reported in the area on 2/27/06. On 3/22/06 it was reported at Hanlontown Slough (Hanlontown, IA north of Clear Lake). On 5/25/06 it was reported at Union Slough and was still there on 7/28/06. 5H5 spent the winter of 2006/2007 with an unmarked adult at the Schildberg Quarry in Atlantic, leaving Atlantic on March 9, 2007. On March 17, 2007, it was reported in a field along Co. Rd. 16 just south of Co. Rd. 6 in Steele County, Minnesota with its mate 6H9. On 3/28/07 it was reported with its mate 6H9 in Downtown Mill Pond, Red Cedar River in Austin Steele, MN.

## Winter 2004/2005

27 Trumpeter Swans (most present in one day: 24)

*All entries refer to Schildberg Quarry unless otherwise marked*

### **November 25, 2004 – January 17, 2005** **& January 29, 2005 – March 3, 2005**

3C3

7C4

3C4

1-unmarked adult

### **November 26, 2004 – January 17, 2005** **& February 26, 2005 – March 6, 2005**

2F7

J43

2 unmarked cygnets

**November 28, 2004 – January 17, 2005**  
**& January 29, 2005 – March 6, 2005**

8T6  
 7C0  
 1 unmarked cygnet

**December 1, 2004 – January 17, 2005**  
**& January 29, 2005 – March 3, 2005**

6C8  
 7C1 (died Jan. 1, 2005)

**December 20, 2004 – January 17, 2005**

6C9  
 3 unmarked adults  
 1 unmarked cygnet

**January 1, 2005-March 18, 2005**

5 unmarked cygnets

**January 14, 2005- January 17, 2005**

P80  
 P16

**January 28, 2005 – End of March, 2005**

3C5

**February 26, 2005**

2F5

- P80 first visited Atlantic during the winter of 2001/2002...see previous records for more details.
- 2F7, J43, and 8T6 first visited Atlantic during the winter of 2002/2003...see previous records for more details.
- 3C3, 7C4, 3C4, 7C1, 7C0, 6C8, 6C9, and 3C5 first visited Atlantic during the winter of 2003/2004...see previous records for more details.
- **2F5** is a female 1997 hatch from Gary Barrett and was released at Union Slough in May of 1998. 2F5 made her first visit to Atlantic this winter. She was spotted on 12/6/99 at Spring Lake State Park near Jefferson, IA. Since then, she has traveled to MO in Feb of 2000, near Nashville Pike Arkansas on 1/13/01 and near Paradise Island four miles NE of DeQueen, Arkansas in Feb of 2003, when in Iowa it is usually spotted in the Union Slough area. 2F5 successfully nested with 5F5 in 2001 and 2002 and have wintered in Arkansas, although 2F5 has been reported at Beemer's Pond in the winters of 2003, 2004, and 2005. 2F5 was reported with mate 5F5 near the dike in the center of the refuge (Union Slough) on 6/7/05 and at Beemer's Pond on 12/1/05.
- **P16** is a male 2001 hatch from the Memphis, TN Zoo. He was released at Lizard Lake six miles southwest of Gilmore City in Pocahontas County, IA on 5/22/02. He paired with P80 in approx. 2003. The pair spends most of its time at Union Slough. They spent the winter of 2003/2004 at Moorland Pond (West of Fort Dodge) and were again at Moorland Pond on 12/20/04, before arriving in Atlantic with mate P80. The pair was reported nesting on 5/19/05 at Union Slough, according to Rebecca Rasmussen, the Wildlife Biologist, they have been "trying to pull off a clutch the last couple of years". On 6/1/05 P16 was seen "on its old nesting spot alone, suspiciously on the "lookout" at Union Slough. On 1/27/06 it was reported at Smith Lake (five miles north of Algona, IA) with P80 and three cygnets. The family was reported on

2/1/06 at Union Slough (near Algona). In the spring of 2006 the pair hatched six cygnets at Union Slough they were still at Union Slough on 7/20/06.

- **7C1** was found dead on 1/1/05, it had been sick for several weeks.
- Several reports indicated that the swans left on 1/17/05 due to free roaming dogs.

## Spring 2005

**June 3, 2005**

Blaine Behnken's flightless birds had seven healthy cygnets.

- The male adult swan suddenly died and the young cygnets were removed on 1/27/06 in preparation for a new adult male to bond with the female.
- Five of the cygnets were tagged and released at several locations on May 13, 2006 and became: 3K5, 3K6, 3K7, 3K8, and 4K1.
- Two of the cygnets were tagged and released at Crawford Creek, 3 miles south of Battle Creek, IA in Ida County on May 15, 2006. They became: 3K9 and 4K0.
- **3K5** is a 2005 hatch year male from Blaine Behnken. Released at Barringer Slough 3 miles northwest of Ruthven, IA (Clay County) 05-13-06. After hitting a power line near Early it managed to fly a little south of Early on 12/13/06.
- **3K6** is a 2005 hatch year male from Blaine Behnken. Released at Hottes Lake 5 miles northwest of Spirit Lake, IA in Dickinson County.
- **3K7** is a 2005 hatch year male from Blaine Behnken. Released at Strucek Wetland 4 miles southwest of Armstrong, IA in Kossuth County.
- **3K8** is a 2005 hatch year male from Blaine Behnken. Released at East Slough 6 miles east of Wallingford, IA in Emmet County. In December of 2006 it was reported in flood control ponds seven miles east of Fletcher, Oklahoma. On March 28, 2007 3K8 was reported near Salix, IA (south of Sioux City).
- **3K9** is a 2005 hatch year female from Blaine Behnken. Released at Crawford Creek (Ida Co) located 3 miles south of Battle Creek, IA on 5/15/06. She was reported at Decatur, NE on 12/8/06.
- **4K0** is a 2005 hatch year male from Blaine Behnken. Released at Crawford Creek (Ida Co) located 3 miles south of Battle Creek, IA on 5/15/06.
- **4K1** is a 2005 hatch year male from Blaine Behnken. Released at East Slough 6 miles east of Wallingford, IA in Emmett County on 5/13/06. On January 10, 2007 4K1 was reported with 21 swans at Squaw Creek NWR (5 miles southwest of Mound City, MO).

## Winter 2005/2006

25 Trumpeter Swans, 1 Mute Swan (most present in one day: 24, plus 1 Mute Swan)

*All entries refer to Schildberg Quarry unless otherwise marked*

**November 17, 2005 – February 2, 2006**

2 unmarked adults

**November 18, 2005 – January 27, 2006**  
**& February 6, 2006**  
**& February 25, 2006- March 5, 2006**

8T6

7C0

7K0, marked cygnet

4 unmarked cygnets

(one of these was injured and remained at a pond north of Wiota from approximately 1/27/06 until it gained strength and flew back to the quarry on 2/10/06 and left with the group on 3/5/06).

1 unmarked cygnet that possibly belongs to 8T6 and 7C0 (arrived a few hours later)

**November 18, 2005 – January 27, 2006**  
**& February 6, 2006**  
**& February 24, 2006- March 5, 2006**

6C8

**November 18, 2005 – February 2, 2006**  
 7C4

**November 18, 2005 – January 27, 2006**  
**& February 17, 2006 - February 24, 2006**  
 3C4

**November 19, 2005 – February 2, 2006**  
 2F7  
 J43

\*2 unmarked cygnets

\*1 cygnet died 12/30/05 after hitting a power line

\*1 cygnet died 1/13/06 after hitting a power line and then getting hit by one or more vehicles

**November 24, 2005-February 1, 2006**  
 3C3

**November 24, 2005-February 1, 2006**  
**& February 17, 2006 – February 24, 2006**  
 5C5

**November 30, 2005- February 2, 2006**  
 2 unmarked adults

**November 30, 2005-December 27, 2005**  
 1 unmarked cygnet (a Mute Swan...it arrived several hours after the adults)

**December 5, 2005**  
 1 unmarked adult

**December 5, 2005- February 2, 2006**  
 7C2

**December 13, 2005- February 2, 2006**  
 1 unmarked cygnet

**February 24, 2006- March 5, 2006**  
 1 unmarked adult

### January 13, 2006

On Friday evening, 1/13/06, I received several calls of Trumpeter Swans dead and injured out by the quarry. After several accounts and versions of what happened, it has been determined that four of the 22 swans that were flying hit the powerlines near Highway 83. It seems like there was a lot of traffic at the time and it is still unknown exactly how many swans were hit by cars, anywhere from one to three of them. The good news is that three of the four survived the incident! After hitting the power lines, all four swans landed on or near Highway 83. One swan flew back to the quarry with no injuries, one (7C4) walked back to the quarry and has been improving some each day, one landed right in the middle of the highway and was hit by at least one vehicle and did not survive. That young, unmarked swan, belonging to 2F7 and J43 was their second one lost to power line collision this winter (both young that arrived at the quarry with them have now died after hitting power lines, the first death occurred on 12/30/05, and they are left with no young, after hatching six near Blue Earth, Minnesota last spring). Finally, the last swan was injured and captured that night. It was taken to Kay Neumann to be rehabilitated and luckily had no internal injuries and no fractures or broken bones. On 1/19/06 it was tagged and released back at the quarry (7K0), a young swan belonging to 7C0 and 8T6. It can fly for a few hundred yards and lands again.

- 8T6, 2F7, and J43 first visited Atlantic during the winter of 2002/2003...see previous records for more details.
- 7C0, 6C8, 7C4, 3C4, 3C3 and 7C2 first visited Atlantic during the winter of 2003/2004...see previous records for more details.
- **5C5** is a 2003 hatch year male from West Bend, IA. He was released near Clear Lake, IA on 4/20/04 and in the year of 2004 was reported in the following Iowa counties: Cerro Gordo, Winnebago, and Hamilton. It spent the winter of 2004/2005 at Beemer's Pond near Webster City (Hamilton Co). It was then reported on 2/11/05 in Dows, IA (Franklin Co.) and on 3/11/05 one mile south of Swaledale, IA (Cerro Gordo Co.). It is paired with 3C3. Bob V. reported that this swan left the quarry on 1/27/06 and then returned again on the morning of 2/1/06, later that day it was reported at Union Slough. On 2/17/06 it arrived back at the quarry in Atlantic without 3C3. On 5/25/06 it was reported at Union Slough with 3C3. They were still there on 7/20/06. On November 10, 2006 5C5 arrived with 3C3 and 3C4 and spent the winter of 2006/2007 at the Schildberg Quarry. On March 5, 2007 5C5 was reported in Dallas County with 3C3.
- **7K0** is 2005 hatch year, unknown sex, belonging to 7C0 and 8T6. 7K0 arrived, unmarked, at the Atlantic Quarry with its parents and four other unmarked cygnets. An additional cygnet joined the group at a later time. On 1/13/06 7K0 hit a power line along Highway 83. It was taken to Kay Neumann to be rehabilitated and was released again on 1/19/06. It could only fly for a few hundred yards until 1/21/06 when it circled over the quarry twice before landing. On 1/23/06 it flew off of the quarry for the first time. It has still not been accepted by the other 20 swans. On 1/27/06 it flew off the quarry with its parents and other siblings and was reported on 2/5/06 at a pond near the intersection of county road N28 and I-80 in Cass County. On 2/6/06, it was reported back at the Schildberg Quarry and appears to have been completely accepted by the others. On 5/30/06 it was reported approximately one mile south of Fergus Falls (I-94/Co Rd 1 exit).

### February 5, 2006

The family of: 7C0 and 8T6, along with one cygnet 7K0, and four of their other unmarked cygnets, as well as one unmarked "adopted" cygnet and 6C8 (a 2003 offspring of 7C0 and 8T6) were reported at a pond near the intersection of county road N28 and I-80 in Cass County. One of the unmarked cygnets has been there since approximately 1/27/06 when the group left the Schildberg Quarry and it appears to be unable to fly. This lone cygnet swan had been reported there several times in the week, but the first report of the rest of the group joining it was on 2/5/06 and it again remained behind after the others left on 2/6/05. On 2/10/05 it seemed to have improved (Bob Voggesser had fed it) and it flew over to the Schildberg Quarries. It steadily improved and the rest of the group arrived back to the Schildberg Quarry on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*All neck bands have been red except for: F75, F74, F48, F35, OF6, 6F7, and 2F7, which were all green.

# Spring 2006

## May 3, 2006

DNR released two cygnets at Lake Anita, 6K2 and 5K8

- **6K2** is a 2005 hatch year, female, raised by Marlene Hammess. 6K2 was reported at the intersection of 665<sup>th</sup> St and Keystone Rd in Cass County, Iowa from Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>-November 1, 2006 along with swan 5H2.
- **5K8** is a 2005 hatch year, male, from the Pella Window store in Story City. 5K8 spent the winter of 2006/2007 at the Schildberg Quarry in Atlantic.

## June 24, 2006

Five cygnets were born to Blaine Behnken's new adult male and the female.

# Winter 2006/2007

36 Trumpeter Swans (most present in one day: 33)

*All entries refer to Schildberg Quarry unless otherwise marked  
Quarry completely frozen for several days starting on Jan. 17, 2007*

## October 29, 2006-November 1, 2006

Near intersection of 665<sup>th</sup> and Keystone Rd

6K2

5H2

## October 30, 2006-October 31, 2006 & November 11- January 25, 2007 & February 28, 2007 – March 9., 2007

7C4

5C0

## November 3, 2006 & November 11, 2006 – January 26, 2007 & February 21, 2007 – March 9, 2007

4 unmarked adults

## November 3, 2006 & November 11, 2006 – January 26, 2007 & February 21, 2007 – March 14, 2007

2 unmarked adults

## November 3, 2006 & November 11, 2006- January 16, 2007 & February 21, 2007 – February 27, 2007

2 unmarked adults

## November 9, 2006- January 25, 2007 & February 28, 2007 – March 14

8T6

7C0

1 unmarked cygnet

**November 10, 2006- January 25, 2007 &  
February 13- February 27, 2007**

3C3

5C5

3C4

**November 10, 2006- January 25, 2007 &  
February 28, 2007 – March 9, 2007**

5H5

1 unmarked adult

**November 11, 2006- January 16, 2007**

2F7

J43

3 unmarked cygnets

**November 19, 2006- January 25, 2007 &  
February 21, 2007- March 9, 2007**

5K8

**December 1, 2006- January 16, 2007**

2 unmarked adults

**December 2, 2006-January 25, 2007 &  
February 21, 2007 – February 27, 2007**

2 unmarked adults

**December 4, 2006- January 25, 2007**

2 unmarked adults

**December 4, 2006**

2 unmarked adults

2 unmarked cygnets

**December 9, 2006 &  
February 28, 2007 – March 9, 2007**

2 unmarked adults

1 unmarked cygnet

- 8T6, 2F7, and J43 first visited Atlantic during the winter of 2002/2003...see previous records for details.
- 7C0, 7C4, 3C4, and 3C3 first visited Atlantic during the winter of 2003/2004...see previous records for more details.
- 5H2 and 5H5 are 2004 hatch year males from Blaine Behnken's mating pair. See previous records (Spring 2004) for more details.
- 5C5 first visited Atlantic during the winter of 2005/2006...see previous records for more details.
- 6K2 was released in Cass County in the spring of 2006. See previous records (Spring 2006) for details.
- 5K8 was first released in Cass County in the spring of 2006. See previous records (Spring 2006) for details.
- 5C0 is a 2003 hatch year male from Mitchell CCB. He was released at Goose Lake (9 miles north of Swea City, IA) on 5/14/05. 5C0 was then reported at Moorland Pond (southwest of Fort Dodge, IA) on 2/21/06. On 3/22/06 it was reported at Hanlontown Slough (north of Clear Lake, IA). In mid-December 2006 5C0 started staying behind when the other swans flew off. In early January it began trying to fly but can only go 200-300 feet before it comes back down. On 1/22/07 it flew off with the other swans for the first time.



# Winter 2007-2008

## November 22, 2007

### Total #, Marked ones listed:

6, 2F7, J43

## November 23, 2007

21, (Including 10 cygnets)

## November 25, 2007

33, 18 unmarked cygnets

## November 26, 2007

46 total

## November 27, 2007

34,

Lake 4 2F7, J43, 7C0, 3C3, 5C5

Lake 3 5H5, 6H9 (3 Cygnets)

## December 1, 2007

34

## December 3, 2007

32

## December 5, 2007

28

## December 6, 2007

31

## December 9-10, 2007

37, 7C4

## December 17, 2007

34

## December 21, 2007

37, OT0

- OT0 has been here most of the winter, it was December 21 when we were able to get close enough to read the red leg band. She has been without her collar band since 11/06. This is her first appearance at the Quarry. In 2007 she hatched 6 cygnets, in Webster City, IA before traveling here with them.
- 6H9 is a 2004 hatch year female from Northwest Trek, Washington state via Martha Jordan. Raised by Dave and Liz Hoffman, then Del Huebner of Clinton, IA. Released at Laurie & Tony Severe pond (in Nora Springs, IA) 07-20-06. We believe she is paired with 5H5, this is likely their first brood.
- 5H5 is 2004 hatch year male from Blaine Behnken's mating pair. See previous records (Spring 2004) for more details.
- 2F7, and J43 first visited Atlantic during the winter of 2002/2003...see previous records for details.
- 7C0, 7C4, and 3C3 first visited Atlantic during the winter of 2003/2004...see previous records for more details.
- 5C5 first visited Atlantic during the winter of 2005/2006...see previous records for more details.
- The mates of 7C0 and 7C4 were here last year with them but are absent this year.

# Winter 2008-2009

## November 18, 2008

### Total #, Marked ones listed:

16, 5H5, 6H9, 3C3, 5C5

## November 24, 2008

8 (just 3C3, 5C5)

## November 26, 2008

6, ALL unmarked

## December 1, 2008

36, 18 cygnets, 12 adults, and 6 collared (6H9, 5H5 were back only ones we could read)

## December 3, 2008

12 (pm)

## December 4, 2008

34, 19 cygnets, 15 adults. 6H9, 5H5 with 5 cygnets, 5C5, 3C3 with 3 cygnets, 3K9, paired w/ an unmarked, 4K0, paired w/ an unmarked.

## December 5, 2008

30, 18 cygnets, 12 Adults 6H9, 5H5 with 5 cygnets, 5C5, 3C3 with 3 cygnets.

## December 11, 2008

42

## December 17, 2008

54

## December 18, 2008

37

## December 19, 2008

21,

## December 22, 2008

22,

## December 30, 2008

22,

- **7C4** (619-35439) is a female, 2003 wild MN (just SW of Blue Earth) hatch, and is the offspring of 2F7 and J43. She was banded in Atlantic on 1/22/04. 7C4 has returned to Atlantic for the sixth winter. We believe that she is paired with an unmarked adult whom is here at the quarry as well.
- **3C3** (619-34198) is a female, 2003 wild MN (just SW of Blue Earth) hatch, banded in Atlantic on 1/12/04, offspring of 2F7 and J43. She was later reported at Thorpe Park in Winnebago County, Iowa on 3/8/04 and then at Union Slough on 6/24/04. 3C3 returned to Atlantic in the winters of 2004/2005 and 2005/2006. It is

paired with 5C5. Three cygnets reported in 2008. This may be their first successful nesting. Unknown nest location.

- **5C5** is a 2003 hatch year male from West Bend, IA. He was released near Clear Lake, IA on 4/20/04 and in the year of 2004 was reported in the following Iowa counties: Cerro Gordo, Winnebago, and Hamilton. In Jan 2008 when the quarry pond froze over, they moved on to Hamilton County, IA but they're only sightings for 2008 are the Schildberg quarry.
- **5H5**, 2004 hatch year male of Blaine Behnken's captive pair, See previous records (Spring 2004) for more details.
- **6H9**, is a 2004 hatch year female from Northwest Trek, Washington state via Martha Jordan. Raised by Dave and Liz Hoffman, then Del Huebner of Clinton, IA. Released at Laurie & Tony Severe pond (2 S Nora Springs, IA) 07-20-06. 6H9 and 5H5 hatched at least 5 cygnets in both 2007 and 2008. Their nest location is unknown.
- **3K9**, is a 2005 hatch year female from Blaine Behnken of Massena, IA. She was released at Crawford Creek (Ida Co.) located 3 S of Battle Creek, IA on 05-15-06. She had not been sighted since 2006 in NE until the 4 days she stayed here at the Schildberg Quarry. We believe she is paired with and unmarked adult that accompanied her and her cygnets.
- **4K0**, a 2005 hatch year male from Blaine Behnken of Massena, IA. He was released at Crawford Creek (Ida Co.) located 3 S of Battle Creek, IA on 05-15-06 He also had not been sighted since 2006 in NE until the 4 days he stayed here at the Schildberg Quarry. We believe he is paired with and unmarked adult that accompanied him and his cygnets.

## Winter 2009-2010

### November 18, 2009

#### Total #, Marked ones listed:

15, 5H5, 6H9

### November 19, 2009

18 5H5, 6H9, 2F7, 7C4 (red leg band only)

### November 27, 2009

24, New unmarked family of 5.

### December 7, 2009

41, 3C3, 6H9, 5C5 (all red bands) and 2F7 (green band), 7C4 (red leg band only).

### December 16, 2009

41 AM, 29 PM, 1 bald eagle, 13 cygnets of the 29. 5H5, 3C3, 6H9, 5C5 (all red bands) and 2F7 (green band), 7C4 (red leg band only).

### December 18, 2009

48

### December 28, 2009

29,

**December 30, 2009**

33

- **2F7** is a female that hatched in 1997. She was NOT here in 2008. See more information in 2002/2003.
- **7C4** (619-35439) is a female, 2003 wild MN (just SW of Blue Earth) hatch, and is the offspring of 2F7 and J43. She was banded in Atlantic on 1/22/04. 7C4 has returned to Atlantic for the seventh winter. We believe that she is paired with an unmarked adult whom is here at the quarry as well.
- **5H5**, 2004 hatch year male of Blaine Behnken's captive pair, See previous records (Spring 2004) for more details.
- **6H9**, is a 2004 hatch year female. 6H9 and 5H5 hatched at least 5 cygnets in both 2007 and 2008. See more information in 2007
- **3C3** (619-34198) is a female, 2003 wild MN (just SW of Blue Earth) hatch, banded in Atlantic on 1/12/04, offspring of 2F7 and J43. See more information in 2002-2003 and 2008.
- **5C5** is a 2003 hatch year male from West Bend, IA. See more information in 2006 for him.

<h2>Winter 2010-2011</h2>
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**November 5, 2010****Total #, Marked ones listed:**

3

**November 21, 2010**

25 swans, 5C5, 7C4 (red leg band only).

**November 28, 2010**

42

**December 8, 2010**

35, 6H9, 5C5 (all red bands) and 7C4 (red leg band only). Also that day a cygnet was taken to S.O.A.R with a leg injury.

**December 17, 2010**

42

**December 23, 2010**

30

**December 30, 2010**

20

**January 2, 2011**

28 swans, 5H5, 6H9, 7C4 are still here

- **7C4** (619-35439) is a female, 2003 wild MN (just SW of Blue Earth) hatch, and is the offspring of 2F7 and J43. She was banded in Atlantic on 1/22/04. 7C4 has returned to Atlantic for the seventh winter. We believe that she is paired with an unmarked adult whom is here at the quarry as well.
- **5H5**, 2004 hatch year male of Blaine Behnken's captive pair, See previous records (Spring 2004) for more details.
- **6H9**, is a 2004 hatch year female. 6H9 and 5H5 hatched at least 5 cygnets in both 2007 and 2008. See more information in 2007
- **5C5** is a 2003 hatch year male from West Bend, IA. See more information in 2006 for him. Was here only in November he must have moved on. 3C3 was not with him this year.

## Winter 2011-2012

### **Total #, Marked ones listed:**

#### **November 17, 2011**

27 swans, 5C5, 8 adults 19 cygnets.

#### **November 28, 2011**

24 swans at dusk.

#### **December 2, 2011**

17 swans, 6 adults. 5C5, 6H9, 5H5.

#### **December 16, 2011**

23

#### **December 23, 2011**

33

#### **December 29, 2011**

**38 Swans**, 18 cygnets 5C5, 6H9, 5H5 all still here.

#### **January 4, 2012**

32

- **5H5**, 2004 hatch year male of Blaine Behnken's captive pair, See previous records (Spring 2004) for more details.
- **6H9**, is a 2004 hatch year female. 6H9 and 5H5 hatched at least 5 cygnets in both 2007 and 2008. See more information in 2007. This year you'll notice they have a lot of cygnets!!
- **5C5** is a 2003 hatch year male from West Bend, IA. See more information in 2006 for him.

# Winter 2012-2013

**Total #, Marked ones listed:**

**November 24, 2012**

12 swans, 5H5.

**November 28, 2012**

52 swans at dusk.

**November 30, 2012**

36 total swans, 12 cygnets

**December 5, 2012**

28 swans.

**December 18, 2012**

42 total swans, 16 cygnets. 5C5, 5H5

**December 26, 2012**

30

**December 31, 2012**

**58 total swans, 14 cygnets. 5C5, 5H5 all still here.**

**January 2, 2013**

33

- **5H5**, 2004 hatch year male of Blaine Behnken's captive pair, See previous records (Spring 2004) for more details. 6H9 did not arrive in Atlantic, there is belief that she left MN with him.
- **5C5** is a 2003 hatch year male from West Bend, IA. See more information in 2006 for him.

# Winter 2013-2014

**Total #, Marked ones listed:**

**November 12, 2013**

12 swans.

**November 24, 2013**

39 total. 5C5, 5H5

**December 3, 2013**

38 Swans, 8 cygnets.

**December 29, 2013**

47 swans.

**December 31, 2013**

43 Swans, 3 Cygnets. 5C5, 5H5

- **5H5**, 2004 hatch year male of Blaine Behnken's captive pair, See previous records (Spring 2004) for more details. 6H9 did not arrive in Atlantic last year, if you notice his "children" from last year are adult plumage now. This winter those "children" are still hanging out with dad as a family group.
- **5C5** is a 2003 hatch year male from West Bend, IA. See more information in 2006 for him.

## Winter 2014-2015

**Total #, Marked ones listed:****November 11, 2014**

3 swans.

**November 12, 2014**

5 total at lake 4, 11 in (hunt's field).

**November 14, 2014**

15 swans at hunt's field, and 45 at Lake 4. 60 total.

**November 18, 2014**

50 total, 25 cygnets lake 4.

**November 19, 2014**

54 total.

**December 5, 2014**

AM- 72 total 9k7 arrived.

PM 62 total, 18 cygnets (no 9k7)

**December 24, 2014**

24 total. (9k7)

**December 31, 2014**

53 total. (9K7)

- **9K7**, is a 2006 hatch year male from Cass County (Blaine Behnken), released at Lake Anita on 4-4-2007. This is his first report at the Schildberg Rec. Area Lake 4. Other Reports: 4/ 4/ 2007    Lake Anita  
Cass    IA. 11 / 7 / 2008    Hwy 3 & 71 Pond    NE    Storm Lake    Buena Vista    IA.  
3/5/2013    W    of Emmetsburg    Palo Alto    IA

# Winter 2015-2016

**Total #, Marked ones listed:**

**November 22, 2015**

18 total 1 cygnet.

**November 24, 2015**

47 Total.

**November 25, 2015**

28 total, 8 cygnets (hunt's field).

**November 28, 2015**

49 total.

**December 1, 2015**

38 total.

**December 5, 2015**

56 total.

**December 20, 2015**

50 total, Lake 2.

**December 24, 2015**

53 total, Lake 2.

**December 29, 2015** 63 total, Lake 4.

**December 30, 2015** 54 Total.

**January 1, 2016**

79 total, Lake 4.

**January 5, 2016** 40 swans, Lake 4.

**January 6, 2016** 60 total.

# Winter 2016-2017

11/19/16 4 swans

11/20/16 4 swans

11/21/16 20 Swans.

11/22/16 7 Total 2 cygnets.

11/29/16 9 swans in field.

11/30/16 12 swans in field. am

12/5/16 No swans

12/6/16 8 swans in field.

12/8/16 29 swans.

12/9/16 52 swans in hunt's field.

**12/10/16 110 swans at Lake 4.**

**12/13/16 112 swans in field.**

**12/18/16 135 swans at lake 4.**

12/20/16 76 swans.

12/21/16 110 total. 70 lake 4, 40 field.

**12/28/16 150 total. 145 lake, 5 field.**

1/1/17 79 Lake 4.



1/7/17 58 total, 28 cygnets, lake 4  
 1/9/17 125 total  
 1/17/17 110 Swans.  
 1/20/17 100 am. 30 pm.  
 1/22/16 34 total, 12 cygnets.  
 2/1/16 23 swans.  
 2/2/17 2 swans.  
 2/12/16 44 swans.  
 2/24/16 30 swans.  
 3/9/17 gone-

## Winter 2017-2018

**November 9, 2017** 18 Swans.

**November 23, 2017** 31 Total.

**December 2, 2017** 42 Swans.

### **December 9, 2017**

76 swans at Lake 2, 36 swans in hunt's field. Yellow 36F (2 adults, 2 cygnets)

### **December 11, 2017**

80 swans at Lake 4 16 Cygnets.

### **December 19, 2017**

83 swans (yellow collar still there- Lake 2).

**December 22, 2017** 84 swans.

### **December 26, 2017**

82 total. 46 swans at lake 3, 36 at lake 4.

### **12/28/17 30 lake 4. Very little open water.**

65 afternoon- airport field.

1/8/18 75 swans

1/12/18 60 swans

1/16/18 77 Swans

1/23/18 70 swans

1/25/18 55 Swans

2/1/18 70 swans

2/26/18 60 swans/ 26 cygnets

3/7/18 12 swans Lake 2

3/12/18 7 swans

3/20/18 gone

Average swan count: 48

## Winter 2018-2019

11/11/18 9 swans

11/12/18 10 swans am, 45 swans aft.

11/13/18 59 swans.

11/21/18 22 swans field.

11/27/18 96 swans

11/30/18 110 field

12/14/18 143 total Yellow 36F(2 adults, 3 cygnets)

12/15/18 148 total  
 12/18/18 131 swans at lake 4.  
 12/20/18 134 swans 31 cygnets at lake 4.  
 12/26/18 86 swans.  
 12/27/18 84 swans.  
 1/4/19 137 swans.

**1/5/19 164 total swans, 32 of them cygnets. New Record according to my records for most at once!**

1/7/19 144 total swans.  
 1/8/19 20 at the lake, 5 at the airport field.  
 1/14/19 91 Swans.  
 1/18/19 60 swans.  
 1/23/19 NO swans.  
 1/27/19 Lake 4 ICED OVER. – 3<sup>rd</sup> winter since 2007 that this has happened, 1<sup>st</sup> time that it was iced over for so long. It was still iced over into February.  
 Average swan count: 81

## Winter 2019-2020

11/8/19 15 swans  
 11/11/19 15 swans  
 11/13/19 15 swans.  
 11/14/19 37 swans.  
 11/21/19 44 swans field.  
 11/25/19 18 swans.  
 11/27/19 22 swans 8 in field.  
 12/3/19 31 swans lake 4.  
 12/12/19 133 swans lake 4.  
 12/13/19 111 swans.  
 12/26/19 104 swans.  
 12/29/19 200 swans. (not on lake 4)  
 12/30/19 245 swans (three fields) **New Record according to my records for most at once!**  
 1/8/20 125 swans  
 1/20/20 10 Swans  
 1/24/20 30 swans (field lansing rd)  
 2/3/20 31 swans  
 2/6/20 swans gone  
 2/19/20 came back  
 3/3/20 NO swans.

Since 12/30/19 swans were not at Lake 4 consistently, a few were “sleeping” there, but hard to actually see spending time there. Were on the river or on a pond near Lansing rd and hwy 6.

Average swan count: 66

## Winter 2020-2021

11/30/20 30 swans  
 12/1/20 33 swans lake 4.

12/2/20 40 am Lake 4, 60 field.  
 12/7/20 82 swans lake 4.  
 12/8/20 64 Swans  
 12/9/20 68 swans.  
 12/19/20 54 swans  
 12/21/20 68 swans.  
 12/25/20 89 swans  
 1/1/2021 89 swans  
 1/3/21 74 swans  
 1/11/21 102 Swans (30 cygnets)  
 1/12/21 101 Swans  
 1/19/21 92 Swans  
 1/20/21 80 Swans  
 1/28/21 60 swans  
 1/29/21 84 Swans  
 2/13/21 NO swans.  
 Average swan count: 70

## Winter 2021-2022

**No ice on the lakes until Jan. 2022, not consistent staying on lake 4. That's why field count is listed.**

11/22/21 22 swans lake 4  
 11/24/21 15 swans lake 4  
 11/26/21 8 Swans lake 4  
 11/28/21 2 swans lake 4  
 11/29-12/6 no swans  
 12/9/21 7 swans  
 12/10/21 4 swans  
 12/13/21 28 swans near Hunts field.  
 12/15/21 20 Swans Near Hunts field.  
 12/19/21 50 swans near Hunts field  
 12/28/21 51 swans  
 12/31/21 21 swans  
 1/6/22 80 swans lake 4.  
 1/11/22 83 Swans (43 cygnets)  
 1/12/22 93 Swans  
 1/13/22 108 Swans (36 cygnets)  
 1/20/22 **One cygnet dead on the ice (far out and close to open water)**  
 1/21/22 72 Swans  
 1/25/22 100 Swans  
 2/3/22 47 swans.  
 2/7/22 46 swans  
 2/10/22 50 swans  
 2/14/22 81 swans  
 2/25/22 8 swans  
 2/28/22 2 swans  
 Average swan count: 43

## Winter 2022-2023

11/22/22 30 swans lake 4 AM, 10- PM  
 11/26/22 19 Swans lake 4  
 12/5/22 32 swans  
 12/12/22 40 swans near Hunts field.  
 12/14/22 66 Swans  
 12/19/22 71 swans PM  
 12/20/22 90 swans AM  
 12/27/22 42 Swans  
 12/28/22 50 swans -Canada geese powerline hit on hwy 83, 2 geese **dead on the ice (bald eagles eating on them)**  
 1/4/23 40 swans near Hunts field.  
 1/5/23 51 swans field  
 1/6/23 48 swans lake 4.  
 1/15-16/23 0 Swans  
 1/29/23 Iced over Lake 4. 4<sup>th</sup> winter since 2007 that this has happened, 2<sup>nd</sup> time that it was iced over for so long. It was still iced over into February.  
 2/13/23 11 swans  
 2/14/23 26 swans (5 cygnets) Hunts field  
 2/22/23 2 swans  
 Average swan count: 37

## Winter 2023-2024

12/2/23 15 Swans lake 4  
 12/7/23 20 swans 9 cygnets  
 12/11/23 28 swans  
 12/13/23 42 Swans  
 12/18/23 32 swans AM lake 2  
 12/26/23 15 Lake 2. 20 Swans lake 4  
 12/27/23 30 swans  
 12/28/23 54 Swans  
 1/2/24 45 swans  
 1/4/24 28 swans lake 2.  
 1/6/24 41 swans  
 1/19/24 NO Swans at lake 4  
 1/30/24 4 swans  
 2/8/24 7 swans at lewis water pits Average swan count: 29

## Winter 2024-2025

11/26/24 we had 12 seen at lake 4 but did not stay 24 hrs. We had one more report of the same before official arrival.

12/1/24 12 Swans lake 4

12/4/24 46 swans

37 total (25 of them Lake 2) PM.

12/6/24 56 total ( 9 on Lake, 47 in field)

12/10/24 34 swans

12/13/24 36 Swans (6 lake 4, 20 Lake 2, 10 field)

12/16/24 47 swans in field were 25 cygnets

12/20/24 35 Swans field

12/22/24

12/27/24 56 swans Lake 3

12/30/24 44 Swans Lake 2 TO date 3 dead swans so far with suspected Avian Flu.

1/3/25 30 swans

1/4/25 30 swans

1/10/25 38 Swans, of those 14 cygnets

1/13/25 30 Swans

1/15/25 30 swans

1/21/25 29 Swans

1/24/25 38 Swans

1/27/25 41 Swans

2/19/25 30 Swans

2/20/25 20 Swans lake 2 -am

2/20/25 21 Swans

2/24/25 8 Swans

## Winter 2025-2026

12/2/25 10 Swans lake 4

12/3/25 19 swans Lake 4 am

PM: 36 lake 4 swans

74 total (38 of them Lake 2)

12/10/25 138 Swans

12/11/25 100 Swans est.

12/12/25 114 Swans

12/16/25 126 swans

12/17/25 170 Swans

12/18/25 225 swans

12/19/25 179 swans lake 4

12/21/25 241 Swans field

12/23/25 194 swans Lake 2

12/27/25 2 cygnets, and 1 dead adult swan dead- Powerline strike Lake 4.

12/30/25 229 Swans Lake 4 TO date 1 dead swan so far with suspected Avian Flu.