

## HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM?

Mute swan populations have been increasing in Ohio. Two mute swans can have as many as 450 offspring in as little as ten years. Mute swans can live up to 30 years.

Ohio is not alone in this problem. Many states have removal policies for mute swans; including Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Maryland.

## WHAT IS OHIO DOING?

Ohio is part of the Great Lakes Mute Swan Task Force. The task force is a collaborative group consisting of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services, and state wildlife agencies from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The goal of this group is to advance the development of mute swan management strategies at the regional level.

Ohio's management goals for the mute swan are to have zero mute swans on public lands and zero population growth on all other lands by 2020 in an effort to minimize the impacts to Ohio's native wildlife, important habitats, and local economies. This will put Ohio in compliance with the Mississippi Flyway Council's policy on mute swan management. These goals will be achieved by conducting mute swan management in a manner that is effective, efficient, and in accordance with accepted wildlife management practices.



A pair of mute swans can produce as many as 450 offspring in as little as ten years

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Mute swans are not listed as a game species in Ohio and cannot be hunted.

Report trumpeter and mute swan sightings at [wildinfo@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:wildinfo@dnr.state.oh.us) or 1-800- WILDLIFE.

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services will provide assistance to private landowners who wish to control mute swans on their property. The assistance provided may range from technical guidance to direct removal.

For more information on swan management in Ohio visit our website at [wildohio.gov](http://wildohio.gov).



*The mission of the Division of Wildlife is to conserve and improve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainable use and appreciation by all.*



Ohio Department of  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE



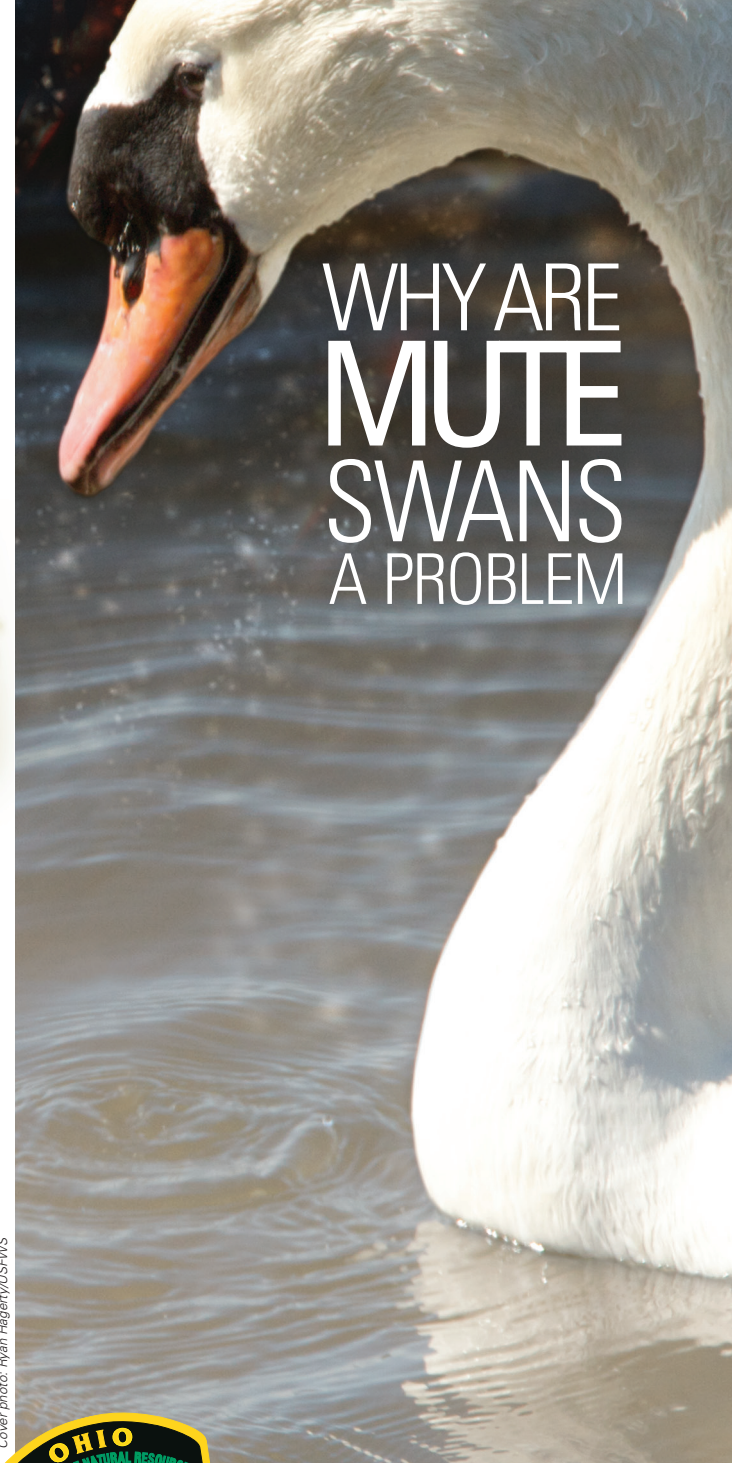
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# WHY ARE MUTE SWANS A PROBLEM

## SWANS IN OHIO

Ohio has two breeding species of swans.

**Trumpeter Swan** – a native species which was extirpated from the state and reintroduced in the late 1990s that is currently state-threatened

**Tundra Swan** – another swan that is seen in Ohio, but only during spring and fall migration

**Mute Swan** – a non-native, invasive species that originated in Europe

## HOW CAN YOU TELL THEM APART?

The most notable difference between the mute swan and the two native swan species found in Ohio (trumpeter and tundra swans), is that adult mute swans have orange bills.

Other tips to identify mute swans include:

- A black knob on the top of their bill
- Mute swans have an “S” curve of the neck while trumpeter swans have a “C” curve
- Mute swans are quieter birds (trumpeter swans have a loud “trumpet” call)

- Variation of bill color – invasive (mute swan) has a predominantly orange bill, native (trumpeter and tundra swans) have predominantly black bills

## PROTECTING OUR TRUMPETER SWAN

The trumpeter swan is native to Ohio, and is on the state’s threatened species list. It has been on the road to recovery; however, the increasing presence of the invasive mute swan is threatening the breeding success of this native bird.

To ensure the protection of the trumpeter swan, the mute swan population must be drastically reduced.

## WHY ARE MUTE SWANS A PROBLEM?

- Mute swans threaten native wildlife and habitats
- Mute swans drive out native waterfowl (including the state-threatened trumpeter swan) and other wildlife with their aggressive behavior
- Mute swans will chase native breeding birds from their nests
- They are considered one of the world’s most aggressive waterfowl species, especially during nesting season

- Mute swans destroy native plants that keep our lakes clean
- A single mute swan can consume four to eight pounds of plants a day
- Mute swans uproot and destroy aquatic plants that are a main food source for native birds and provide cover for native fish and invertebrates
- Continuous feeding by a flock of mute swans can destroy an entire wetland ecosystem.
- Mute swans are non-native and invasive to North America
- Mute swans were introduced to North America in the mid-1800s to decorate parks and estates
- These captive swans escaped and established feral populations
- Increasing populations of mute swans are causing conflicts and damage across the state and region
- Mute swans are as destructive as other invasive species such as Asian carp, feral swine, and zebra mussels

