

Tundra Swan

Cygnus columbianus

Description

Although not a permanent resident of our immediate area, birders flock to see Tundra Swans in our inland waterways as they migrate through Alberta in the late autumn and early spring. These majestic visitors pass through Calgary on their way to and from their breeding grounds in the arctic. Despite our romanticism of these beautiful animals, Tundra Swans are formidable opponents when roused and will protect their nests against predators including foxes, weasels and other birds. Tundra Swans have white plumage, black legs and feet and a mostly black bill that has a small yellow spot at the base. Juvenile birds have a grey-tinge to their wings, head and neck. The diet of Tundra Swans consists of mostly plant matter with a smattering of mollusks and arthropods.

FUN FACTS



- Tundra Swans were dubbed the “whistling swan” by Lewis and Clark due to the sound of their wings in flight.
- During breeding season, Tundra Swans typically sleep on the ground; during the winter they prefer to sleep on the water.
- Tundra Swan plumage can take on a reddish tinge when feeding in iron-rich areas.
- Tundra Swans pair bond and once bonded remain together for feeding, roosting, and mating.




If you find an injured or orphaned wild animal in distress, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at **403-214-1312** for tips, instructions and advice, or visit the website for more information www.calgarywildlife.org



Contact Us

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