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## Trumpeter Swan Expert to Keynote Audubon Dinner

ST. LOUIS – Peg Abbott, Outreach Coordinator for The Trumpeter Swan Society, will deliver the keynote address at the St. Louis Audubon Society 2011 Awards Dinner and Silent Auction on March 5<sup>th</sup> at Orlando Gardens in Webster Groves. The evening will also include a silent auction and several award presentations including the Society’s first-ever Outstanding Conservation Advocate Award to the Save the Confluence Coalition ([www.savetheconfluence.org](http://www.savetheconfluence.org)).

The Trumpeter Swan, North America’s largest waterfowl and one of our rarest native birds, was hunted to near extinction by 1900. Only a few hundred individuals remained in the remote valleys of the northern Rockies, Alaska and western Canada. With complete protection and heroic intervention, 3,700 birds were counted in the 1968 rangewide survey—the same year The Trumpeter Swan Society was founded to unite public and private efforts to restore sustaining populations of the Swans.

Trumpeters today still suffer mortality due to the ingestion of lead, powerline collisions, loss of habitat and illegal shooting. While populations have increased dramatically, recovery is still in progress, and they are listed yellow on the 2007 Audubon Watchlist. The Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary in West Alton harbors one of the largest wintering populations of Trumpeters in the Midwest. Ms. Abbott’s presentation will cover the conservation history and current status of this magnificent bird.

“We are pleased Ms. Abbott is able to share this exciting, yet cautionary, conservation success story,” said Craig Lanham, St. Louis Audubon Vice President of Conservation. “Many of our members and local birders have participated in Trumpeter Swan monitoring efforts over the years. All of them are playing an important role in the Swan’s recovery, and they should be proud of that!”

The Trumpeter Swan Society (TTSS), [www.trumpeterswansociety.org](http://www.trumpeterswansociety.org), is a non-profit organization dedicated to assuring the vitality and welfare of wild Trumpeter Swan populations. Since its founding, TTSS has been involved in every Trumpeter Swan restoration effort in North America. Its 500+ members in the U.S. and Canada include private citizens, waterfowl propagators, businesses, and many of the professional waterfowl biologists and managers who have guided Trumpeter Swan management in recent decades.

The dinner is open to the public, but advance registration is required. Orlando Gardens is located at 8352 Watson Road. Complete details can be found on our website, [www.stlouisaudubon.org](http://www.stlouisaudubon.org) or our Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Louis-Audubon-Society/116967501667135>.

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Founded in 1915, St. Louis Audubon became the first affiliated chapter of the National Audubon Society in 1944 and shares its vision to create a community connection to nature through education and conservation. With a focus on birds, St. Louis Audubon provides the general public with free classroom education programs, education seminars, field trips, and hands-on conservation projects. Representing over 3,400 members in the 10 county St. Louis area, it is the largest Audubon chapter in Missouri.