

SWANS





Types of swans



swan - лебедь

[swɒn]



mute swan - лебедь-
шипун

[mju:t swɒn]



trumpeter swan -
лебедь-трубач

['trʌmpɪtə swɒn]



whooper swan - лебедь-
кликун

['hu:pə(r) swɒn]



black swan - черный
лебедь

[blæk swɒn]



black-necked swan -
черношейный лебедь

[blæk-necked swɒn]



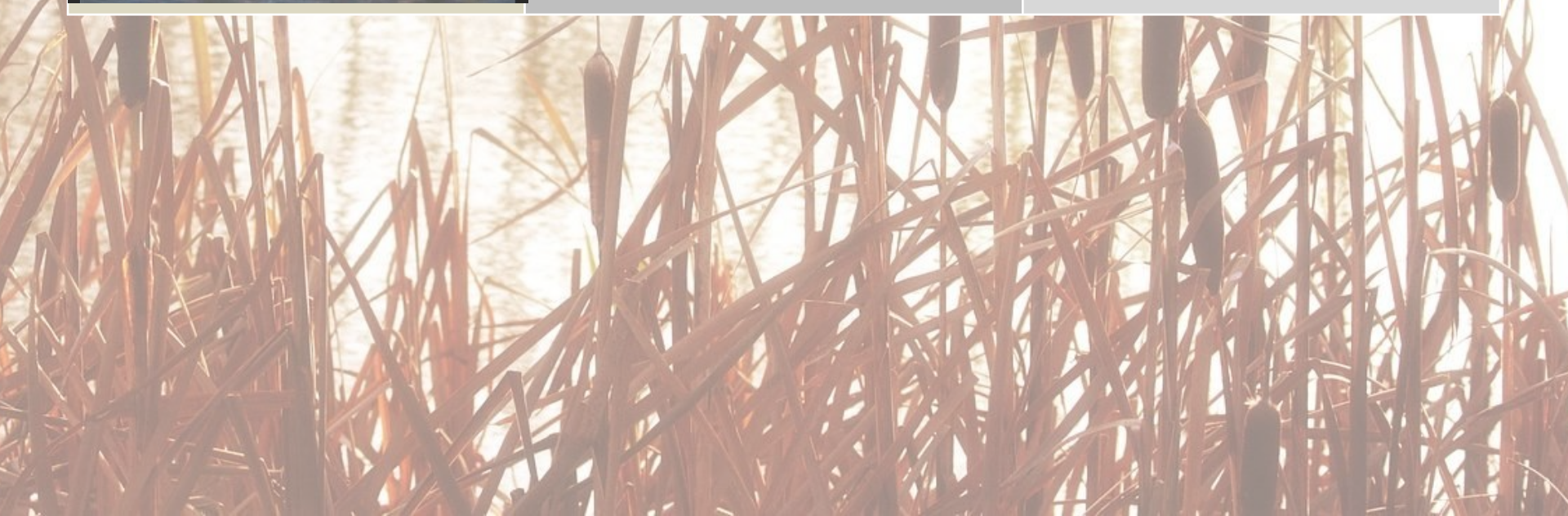
tundra swan -
тундровый лебедь

[ˈtʌndrə swɒn]



coscoroba swan -
лебедь коскороба

[ˌkɒskɒrɒbə swɒn]



Swan



Swans are birds of the family Anatidae within the genus *Cygnus*. The swans' closest relatives include the geese and ducks. Swans are grouped with the closely related geese in the subfamily Anserinae where they form the tribe Cygnini. Sometimes, they are considered a distinct subfamily, Cygninae. There are six living and many extinct species of swan; in addition, there is a species known as the coscoroba swan which is no longer considered one of the true swans. Swans usually mate for life, although divorce sometimes occurs, particularly following nesting failure, and if a mate dies, the remaining swan will take up with another. The number of eggs in each clutch ranges from three to eight.

Swans are the largest extant members of the waterfowl family Anatidae, and are among the largest flying birds. The largest living species, including the mute swan, trumpeter swan, and whooper swan, can reach a length of over 1.5 m and weigh over 15 kg. Their wingspans can be over 3.1 m. Compared to the closely related geese, they are much larger and have proportionally larger feet and necks.[11]Adults also have a patch of unfeathered skin between the eyes and bill. The sexes are alike in plumage, but males are generally bigger and heavier than females. The biggest species of swan ever was *Cygnus falconeri*, a flightless giant swan known from fossils found on the Mediterranean islands of Malta and Sicily.

The Northern Hemisphere species of swan have pure white plumage, but the Southern Hemisphere species are mixed black and white. The Australian black swan (*Cygnus atratus*) is completely black except for the white flight feathers on its wings; the chicks of black swans are light grey. The South American black-necked swan has a white body with a black neck.

Swans' legs are normally a dark blackish grey colour, except for the South American black-necked swan, which has pink legs. Bill colour varies: the four subarctic species have black bills with varying amounts of yellow, and all the others are patterned red and black. Although birds do not have teeth, swans, like other Anatidae, have beaks with serrated edges that look like small jagged 'teeth' as part of their beaks used for catching and eating aquatic plants and algae, but also molluscs, small fish, frogs, and worms. In the mute swan and black-necked swan, both sexes have a fleshy lump at the base of their bills on the upper mandible, known as knob, which is larger in males, and is condition dependent, changing seasonally.

Mute swan



The mute swan is a species of swan and a member of the waterfowl family Anatidae. It is native to much of Eurosiberia, and (as a rare winter visitor) the far north of Africa. It is an introduced species in North America - home to the largest populations outside of its native range - with additional smaller introductions in Australasia and southern Africa. The name 'mute' derives from it being less vocal than other swan species. Measuring 125 to 170 cm in length, this large swan is wholly white in plumage with an orange beak bordered with black. It is recognisable by its pronounced knob atop the beak, which is larger in males.

Adults of this large swan typically range from 140 to 160 cm long, although can range in extreme cases from 125 to 170 cm, with a 200 to 240 cm wingspan. Males are larger than females and have a larger knob on their bill. On average, this is the second largest waterfowl species after the trumpeter swan, although male mute swans can easily match or even exceed a male trumpeter in mass. Among standard measurements of the mute swan, the wing chord measures 53-62.3 cm, the tarsus is 10-11.8 cm and the bill is 6.9-9 cm.

The mute swan is one of the heaviest flying birds. In several studies from Great Britain, males (known as cobs) were found to average from about 10.6 to 11.87 kg, with a weight range of 9.2-14.3 kg while the slightly smaller females (known as pens) averaged about 8.5 to 9.67 kg, with a weight range of 7.6-10.6 kg. While the top normal weight for a big cob is roughly 15 kg, one unusually big Polish cob weighed almost 23 kg and this counts as the largest weight ever verified for a flying bird, although it has been questioned whether this heavyweight could still take flight.

Young birds, called cygnets, are not the bright white of mature adults, and their bill is dull greyish-black, not orange, for the first year. The down may range from pure white to grey to buff, with grey/buff the most common. The white cygnets have a leucistic gene. Cygnets grow quickly, reaching a size close to their adult size in approximately three months after hatching. Cygnets typically retain their grey feathers until they are at least one year old, with the down on their wings having been replaced by flight feathers earlier that year.

All mute swans are white at maturity, though the feathers (particularly on the head and neck) are often stained orange-brown by iron and tannins in the water.

Trumpeter swan



The trumpeter swan is a species of swan found in North America. The heaviest living bird native to North America, it is also the largest extant species of waterfowl, with a wingspan of 185 to 250 cm. It is the American counterpart and a close relative of the whooper swan of Eurasia, and even has been considered the same species by some authorities. By 1933, fewer than 70 wild trumpeters were known to exist, and extinction seemed imminent, until aerial surveys discovered a Pacific population of several thousand trumpeters around Alaska's Copper River. Careful reintroductions by wildlife agencies and the Trumpeter Swan Society gradually restored the North American wild population to over 46,000 birds by 2010.

The trumpeter swan is the largest extant species of waterfowl, and both the heaviest and longest native bird of North America. Adults usually measure 138–165 cm long, though large males can exceed 180 cm in total length. The weight of adult birds is typically 7–13.6 kg. Possibly due to seasonal variation based on food access and variability due to age, average weights in males have been reported to range from 10.9 to 12.7 kg and from 9.4 to 10.3 kg in females. It is one of the heaviest living birds or animals capable of flight, and, in terms of average mass, the heaviest flying bird in the world.

Whooper swan



The whooper swan, also known as the common swan, pronounced hooper swan, is a large northern hemisphere swan. It is the Eurasian counterpart of the North American trumpeter swan, and the type species for the genus *Cygnus*. Francis Willughby and John Ray's *Ornithology* of 1676 referred to this swan as "the Elk, Hooper, or wild Swan".

The whooper swan is similar in appearance to Bewick's swan. It is larger, however, at a length of 140–165 centimetres and a wingspan of 205–275 cm. The weight is typically in the range of 7.4–14.0 kilograms, with an average of 9.8–11.4 kg for males and 8.2–9.2 kg for females. The verified record mass was 15.5 kg for a wintering male from Denmark. It is considered to be amongst the heaviest flying birds. Among standard measurements, the wing chord is 56.2–63.5 cm, the tarsus is 10.4–13.0 cm and the bill is 9.2–11.6 cm. It has a more angular head shape and a more variable bill pattern that always shows more yellow than black (Bewick's swans have more black than yellow). Like their close relatives, whooper swans are vocal birds with a call similar to the trumpeter swan.

Black swan



The black swan is a large waterbird, a species of swan which breeds mainly in the southeast and southwest regions of Australia. Within Australia, the black swan is nomadic, with erratic migration patterns dependent upon climatic conditions. It is a large bird with mostly black plumage and a red bill. It is a monogamous breeder, with both partners sharing incubation and cygnet-rearing duties.

The black swan was introduced to various countries as an ornamental bird in the 1800s, but has managed to escape and form stable populations. Described scientifically by English naturalist John Latham in 1790, the black swan was formerly placed into a monotypic genus, *Chenopsis*. Black swans can be found singly, or in loose companies numbering into the hundreds or even thousands. It is a popular bird in zoological gardens and bird collections, and escapees are sometimes seen outside their natural range.

This bird is a regional symbol of both Western Australia, where it is native, and the English town of Dawlish, where it is an introduced species.

Black-necked swan



The black-necked swan is a swan that is the largest waterfowl native to South America.

Adults average 102 to 124 cm and weigh 3.5 to 6.7 kg. The wingspan ranges from 135 to 177 cm. The body plumage is white with a black neck and head and greyish bill. It has a red knob near the base of the bill and a white stripe behind the eye. The sexes are similar, with the female slightly smaller. The cygnet has a light grey plumage with a black bill and feet. The black-necked swan was formerly placed in monotypic genus, *Sthenelides*.

The black-necked swan, like its nearest relatives the black and mute swan is relatively silent. Also, unlike most wildfowl, both parents regularly carry the cygnets on their backs. The female lays four to six eggs in a nest of vegetation mound. The diet consists mainly of vegetation, insects, and fish spawn.

Tundra swan



The tundra swan is a small Holarctic swan. The two taxa within it are usually regarded as conspecific, but are also sometimes split into two species: Bewick's swan of the Palaearctic and the whistling swan proper of the Nearctic. Birds from eastern Russia are sometimes separated as the subspecies *C. c. jankowskii*, but this is not widely accepted as distinct, with most authors including them in *C. c. bewickii*. Tundra swans are sometimes separated in the subgenus *Olor* together with the other Arctic swan species.

Bewick's swan was named in 1830 by William Yarrell after the engraver Thomas Bewick, who specialised in illustrations of birds and animals. *Cygnus* is the Latin for "swan", and *columbianus* comes from the Columbia River, the type locality.

C. columbianus is the smallest of the Holarctic swans, at 115–150 cm in length, 168–211 cm in wingspan and a weight range of 3.4–9.6 kg. In adult birds, the plumage of both subspecies is entirely white, with black feet, and a bill that is mostly black, with a thin salmon-pink streak running along the mouthline and - depending on the subspecies - more or less yellow in the proximal part. The iris is dark brown. In birds living in waters that contains large amounts of iron ions (e.g. bog lakes), the head and neck plumage acquires a golden or rusty hue. Pens (females) are slightly smaller than cobs (males), but do not differ in appearance otherwise.

Coscoroba swan



The coscoroba swan (*Coscoroba coscoroba*) is a species of waterfowl endemic to southern South America. It is the smallest of the birds called "swans", but still a large species of waterfowl. It belongs to the subfamily Anserinae in the family of ducks, swans, and geese, Anatidae. It is placed in the monotypic genus *Coscoroba*. The coscoroba swan is traditionally considered as an early branch from the common ancestor leading to true geese and swans, and recent genetic studies have associated a phylogenetic relationship between this species and the Cape Barren goose (*Cereopsis novaehollandiae*) as sister groups.

Male coscoroba swans weigh 3.8–5.4 kg and females weigh 3.2–4.5 kg. The length is from 87.5 to 115 cm and the wingspan is 155 to 160 cm. They have white plumage except for black tips to the outer six primary feathers, although this black is often barely visible on the closed wing. In flight, the black wing tips are conspicuous. The bird has a red beak, legs and feet. They look somewhat more like geese than swans. The female looks almost identical to the male. The cygnet is a patchy color, with brown and gray hues. The coscoroba swan lacks the patch of bare skin between the eyes and beak typical of swans. They look like a very small swan in body and look like a goose in the head. Eggs measure 89 X 61 mm, with averages of 82 to 94 53 to 67 mm, with an average weight of 170 grams and range from 129 to 203 grams.