

1. Fly from Chesapeake Bay Area (Virginia/ Maryland States)
2. To Hudson Bay, Nunavut & Mackenzie Delta Areas Approximately 6,000 Kilometers.
3. Approximately 160,000 Birds in the Eastern Migration.
4. First longer staging area is our area which includes Grand Bend to Long Point.
5. Aylmer Wildlife Area is perhaps the best place in North America to see Swans up close.
6. We feed corn here. Swans prefer Aquatic Plants & Mussels or Clams. Because of the lack of Aquatic Plants in the Spring they will eat corn.
7. We fed for 25 days last spring & fed approximately 11 tonne of corn.
8. We counted 41,594 Birds last year (Our total of daily count for the 25 days).
9. Aylmer Wildlife Area has been declared a Globally Important Bird Area & the ponds a Provincially Significant Wetland.
10. The Swans live approximately 20 years & weigh approximately 20 Lbs.
11. Swans are approximately 53" long and have a wing span of about 60".
12. They pair for life.
13. They have been reported flying as high as 15,000 feet
14. We have been told that you & I require oxygen above 12,000 feet.
15. Swans spend 51% of their life in migration (186 Days).
16. Swans spend 29% of their life in breeding areas (106 Days).
17. Swans spend 20% of their life in wintering areas (73 Days).
18. Travel time going North approximately 85 days @ approximately 70 Klms./ Hr.
19. Travel time going South approximately 101 days @ approximately 50 Klms./ Hr.
20. They travel slower going South because they have their young with them.
21. From this area they will fly to North Dakota/Southern Manitoba.
22. From there they {some} will go to Hudson Bay - Nunavut Area.
23. The rest will fly to Northern Alberta & rest.
24. Next stop is Mackenzie Delta area to nest & hatch their young.
25. They will lay 3 - 4 eggs on average.
26. Swans have no known predators. An Arctic Fox might steal an egg if he is real lucky, but a full grown Swan can break your arm with his wing.
27. Their nest is 3 ½ feet high & 3 feet across. It is made from Reeds, Moss & feathers. (picture available).
28. As you look out at the Swans, you should notice that some have a grey or dirty looking neck. These are the young birds. They will be 3 years old before they become all white.
29. You will also notice groups . This is generally family groups, but could be young birds congregating.
30. There is a picture of a Swan wearing a radio transmitter on the sign on the front of VS #1. This sign was provided by Bird Studies Canada (Port Rowan) and donated to Aylmer Wildlife Area.
31. They are still in family groups until they pair off and start their own family. This will occur when they reach 4 to 5 years old.
32. In order to chart the flight & times etc. Bird Studies Canada placed radio transmitters on several Swans so they could be tracked by satellite. We have a chart report on one Swan in the display case. You will notice that the birds stop off for rests at various places , but the main stops (3) are as mentioned previously.
33. You may also notice a few Swans with neck collars of various colours. These are significant of the area in which they were banded.
34. The incubation period is approximately 32 days after the final egg is laid. So the young Cygnet has about 74 days to be able to fly South on the return flight. Those who can't will probably perish.