



# RED DEER RIVER NATURALISTS

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**A Voice for Nature**

February 9, 2026

Re: Proposed Hunting Season for Tundra Swans

To Whom It May Concern:

As the oldest natural history organization in Alberta, the Red Deer River Naturalists strongly oppose the opening of a Tundra Swan hunt in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The reasons given by the Canadian Wildlife Service for the proposed changes are that (1) “stakeholders” – i.e., a small group of vocal hunters – are seeking “new opportunities” to hunt these iconic species, and (2) it will provide a boost for hunting outfitters and businesses. We feel strongly that wildlife management decisions should not be influenced by the lobbying efforts of small special interest groups nor should they be implemented with the objective of assisting certain private businesses and interests.

We are most concerned that this hunting season will inevitably result in the accidental killing of Trumpeter Swans, which are listed as a species of special concern in Alberta. As naturalists, we are well aware that it is extremely difficult to tell the two species apart, especially when they are flying. If experienced birders have difficulty telling the two species apart, certainly hunters will not be able to identify them, even with “education.” There is no need to start hunting Tundra Swans and surely the long-term protection of the closely related Trumpeter Swan should take higher priority for the Canadian Wildlife Service than providing sporting “opportunities” for a small but vocal group of hunters and outfitters.

The return of both Tundra and Trumpeter Swans to the Canadian Prairies should be celebrated as a conservation success story and Tundra Swans—which belong to all Canadians and are greatly enjoyed by the vast majority of Albertans who do not hunt them and do not want to see them hunted—should retain their current status under the Migratory Birds Convention Act.

Yours truly,

Myrna Pearman  
President

