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**Bob Watson Photography**  
Reflecting The Spirit of Nature

NATURE - LANDSCAPES - WILDLIFE

Featured Photograph No. 1



*Trumpeter Swan - Horse Shoe Lake, Denali National Park, Alaska*

Hi Folks ,

*Scroll down to view this month's second Featured Photograph and learn about significant discounts when ordering Fine Art Prints.*

*I'm fortunate to have 4 photographs recently published in the Spring edition of [Nature Photographer Magazine](#). If you're interested in obtaining a copy, the magazine can be purchased at most major bookstores, or click here on [Nature Photographer](#) to go to their website.*

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**Nothing Trumps "The Trumpeter"**

*Swans are such beautiful birds to observe. There are three (3) species of swans in North America, the Trumpeter, Tundra and Mute. Both the Trumpeter and Tundra Swans are indigenous to North America, while the Mute was introduced from Europe. The Trumpeter is the largest and heaviest of not only the three swan species, but also the largest of all waterfowl in the world today. In my opinion, the Trumpeter is also the most graceful and elegant of the three. The Trumpeter and Tundra Swans are very similar in appearance, however the Trumpeter is larger with a neck nearly twice as long. The Mute Swan is nearly as large as the Trumpeter, but has an orange bill and a different physical structure, particularly the neck that's always curved down instead of straight like the Trumpeter.*

*The Trumpeter Swan generally measures from 4.5 - 5.5 feet long, typically weighs 15 – 30 lbs., and has a 4 – 6 foot wingspan. This makes the Trumpeter the largest living bird or animal capable of flight.*

*The Trumpeter and Tundra's breeding habitat are large ponds, lakes and pristine wetlands that have minimal human disturbance or interference. In contrast, the Mute Swan is often found year-round in developed areas near human habitation. Trumpeters pair off when 3 – 4 years old and mate for life. Both the male and female care for their young.*

*In the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Trumpeter was heavily hunted for its feathers and the young for their meat. In 1932, fewer than 70 Trumpeters were known to exist worldwide. Fortunately, hunting of Trumpeters is now illegal and due to other conservation measures their population has increased to approximately 46,000, with 85% being in Alaska.*

*Other Interesting Trumpeter Swan Facts:*

- *The male is called the Cob, the female is called the Pen and their young of less than a year are called Cygnets.*
- *The female lays anywhere from 3 to 12 eggs with 4 to 6 being the average. Their nests can measure 5 feet in diameter. The young usually stay with their parents until the next spring breeding season.*
- *Their diet is of almost entirely aquatic plants*
- *They often live 24 years in the wild.*
- *The body of all swans is entirely white, however, the Trumpeter often has a head and/or neck that is stained a rusty color from contact with minerals in the soils of wetlands.*

*Featured Photograph No. 2*



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*Trumpeter Swan, Unnamed Pond, Alaska*

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