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Dear M^s Black.

I have your letter about the Trumpeter Swans and your tragic loss. Thank you for the excellent photographs you sent. You have a cute daughter. I am sure that Emily will grow up to have the right values as far as wildlife and nature are concerned.

Sir Gordon was hatched by my pair at Aurora in 2000. His mother came originally from the Calgary Zoo and belongs to what we call the Western Canadian Population. They breed in the Grande Prairie area of Alberta and migrate to the Henrys Fork of the Snake River in Idaho for the winter. His father is descended from the resident population in the Greater Yellowstone area which do not migrate.

Nessie was hatched by Al Dunsford's pair in 2000. Her mother and father came from the Greater Yellowstone area.

I moved both Sir Gordon and Nessie to the holding pens at Fair Lake when they were about 90 days old just before they could fly. They were held there until 10 July 2001 when I released them at Cook's Bay at the southern end of Lake Simcoe. They were first reported together on 3 May 2002 and apparently have been together ever since.

The average age of first nesting of our captive raised Trumpeters is 4. It is likely they will return to the Langman Sanctuary next year and may breed.

We do not know where they spend the winter but will be on the lookout for them and hope that someone will report their numbers.

I am happy that you have derived some solace from your acquaintance with these marvelous birds.

Yours sincerely

Harry Gordon Lumsden