Common Name: Swans

Scientific Name: Cygnus

Type: Birds

Diet: Herbivore

Average life span in The Wild: Up to 30 years

Size: Up to 59 inches

Weight: Up to 33 pounds

**About Swans (h1)**

The Swan is the largest waterfowl [species](https://www.britannica.com/science/species-taxon) of the subfamily Anserinae, family Anatidae (order Anseriformes). Most swans are classified in the genus *Cygnus.* Swans are gracefully long-necked, heavy-bodied, big-footed birds that glide majestically when swimming and fly with slow wingbeats and with necks outstretched. They migrate in diagonal formation or V-formation at great heights, and no other waterfowl moves as fast on the water or in the air.

**Diet (h2)**

Swans feed by dabbling (not diving) in shallows for aquatic plants. Swimming or standing, the mute (*C. olor*) and black (*C. atratus*) swans often tuck one foot over the back. Male swans, called cobs, and females, called pens, look alike. Legend to the contrary, swans utter a variety of sounds from the windpipe, which in some species is looped within the breastbone (as in cranes); even the mute swan, the least vocal species, often hisses, makes soft snoring sounds, or grunts sharply.

**Behavior (h2)**

Swans are sociable except in breeding season. They mate for life. Courtship involves mutual bill dipping or head-to-head posturing. The pen incubates, on average, a half-dozen pale unmarked eggs on a heap of vegetation while the cob keeps close guard; in some species he takes his turn at brooding. After repulsing an enemy, swans utter a triumph note, as geese do. The young, called cygnets, emerge short-necked and thickly downed; though capable of running and swimming a few hours after hatching, they are carefully tended for several months; in some species they may ride about on their mother’s back. Immature birds wear mottled gray or brown plumage for two or more years. Swans mature in the third or fourth year and live perhaps 20 years in the wild and 50 years or more in captivity.

Read more about swans on Wikipedia (link til: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swan)