

MUTE SWAN

CYGNUS OLOR

DISTINGUISHING MARKS:

Large, snow white waterfowl with a long neck and yellow black nose. Length 145-160 cm, wingspan 210-230 cm, weight 12 kg (our heaviest bird).

PREVALENCE:

Nests numerous in the coastal area and archipelago.

HABITAT:

Lives in the flourishing bays, by lakes and on rocky islets

LIFE STYLES:

Arrives to the first unfrozen waters in March or April, some leaves just when water is starting to freeze again. Swims neck erected. Swan runs a long way against the wind on water surface when ascending to air.

NOURISHMENT:

Swan feeds on a wide variety of aquatic plants. To reach submerged plants the swan upends, or immerses its head and neck while paddling along.

BREEDING:

Swan builds an enormous floating stack nest made of water plants. The nest can also be leaning to lake floor or be build to an islet, to rushes or grass. The female lays her greenish grey eggs (5-8) in April or May and incubates them for about five weeks while the male guards their territory.

POPULATION:

In addition to whooper swans, there is also mute swans nesting in Finland. Tundra swan migrates through Finland and it reminds the whooper swan.

