

MARYLAND ZOO

Trumpeter Swan Nest Watch



As the Zoo's pair of trumpeter swans guards and cares for its nest this spring, you have a front row seat...and you can help us keep watch! Nesting swans demonstrate some fascinating behaviors both before and after eggs hatch. For example, you may often see the female sitting on the nest while the male patrols the pond.

We'd love to know what interesting observations you make! You can share your data with us by emailing it to Education@marylandzoo.org. If we get enough data to compile from different families, we will share back out to everyone a summary of all the observations.

Let's Do Some Science!

Materials: a view of the Maryland Zoo's [Swan Nest Live Cam](#), paper for data collection (or a computer document if preferred), pen or pencil (if using paper to record)

Instructions: Use a sheet of paper or an electronic document to set up a data table like the sample one below. Be sure to leave plenty of room in the two columns on the right so you can record your detailed observations of the swans.

THE MARYLAND ZOO IN BALTIMORE

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*The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is accredited
by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.*

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Any time you start an observation session, **record the date and time** (use the date/time at top right corner of the live cam window) and record **what each swan is doing** at that time. It's ok if you don't know which one is the male and which is the female. When one or both swans **starts, stops, or changes its behavior**, record this in the data table, again with time and date. We've included some sample data below so you can see how it works. Keep going for as long and as often as you would like to observe.

The first egg was laid on Sunday, April 12. Hatching should begin in mid-May, so keep your eyes peeled!

Date	Time	Swan 1	Swan 2
4/12/20	1:10 pm	<i>Sitting on nest with beak tucked in</i>	<i>Standing facing the nest</i>
4/12/20	1:13 pm	<i>No change</i>	<i>Sitting at pond edge</i>
4/20/20	10:01 am	<i>On nest with beak tucked under wing</i>	<i>Swimming</i>
4/20/20	10:14 am	<i>No change</i>	<i>Standing next to the nest</i>
4/20/20	10:21 am	<i>On nest, head raised</i>	<i>No change</i>
4/21/20	3:00 pm	<i>Sitting in water preening</i>	<i>Not in view</i>
4/21/20	3:02 pm	<i>Swimming</i>	<i>Swimming</i>
4/21/20	3:05 pm	<i>Swimming</i>	<i>Preening</i>

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