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March 3, 2011

Mr. David Saveikis
Director, Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
89 King's Hwy
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Mr. Saveikis,

Thank you for our recent conversation, and for agreeing to a temporary moratorium on the killing of mute swans in Delaware. After the unfortunate shot-gunning of the two mute swans on White's Creek, this is an important action for you to take to regain community and citizen support for Delaware Fish and Wildlife and DNREC. I look forward to setting a date and time for our March meeting at our earliest convenience. I believe we can resolve this situation in a way that humanely treats mute swans, addresses citizen concerns, and showcases Delaware as a state leading the way in progressive and enlightened solutions to problems involving wildlife protection and management.

As you probably realize, in response to requests from concerned Delaware citizens, The Humane Society of the United States (The HSUS) has been working with Representative Gerald Hocker and an adhoc citizen group whose mission it is to protect these beautiful swans while mitigating any situations where conflicts may arise in as sensitive and humane a manner as possible. The residents of White Creek are justly furious over this situation. Indeed, they were most upset by the callous and brutal nature of the recent swan killing, and the fact that there was no effort to involve concerned and caring residents in an attempt to find a non-lethal solution to problems that may have existed. These are highly legitimate concerns and The HSUS is pleased to be in a position to help suggest a common-sense solution.

The citizens and The HSUS believe that we have developed such a common sense solution. Accordingly, we would urge you and the Governor to create a solution which would provide for the long term protection of these magnificent birds in a way which will minimize human-caused mortality, and involve local citizens in insuring their protection and welfare.

Specifically, we suggest a two part program that would consist of:

- 1.) Designation of a citizen advisory group to provide recommendations to Delaware Fish and Wildlife concerning analysis of reported conflicts; and to provide recommendations concerning non-lethal control procedures and actions to be followed if actionable complaints regarding mute swans are received, and to provide advice on the most humane control procedures and techniques.
- 2.) Declaring a *permanent* soft moratorium on the killing or lethal control of mute swans in Delaware. The moratorium would prohibit general lethal control or killing of these animals, and require that non-lethal measures be used in cases where problems are reported that are serious enough to warrant intervention. Lethal control would only be allowed on a case by case basis, after consultation with concerned citizens, and, only as a last resort where non-lethal controls had been attempted and found unworkable, and only in the most humane way possible.

We look forward to discussing a permanent moratorium, combined with the adoption of non-lethal population control where appropriate. I will be following up this letter with a call on Friday to schedule a date and time to discuss our proposed solutions.

Sincerely,



John W. Grandy, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President
Wildlife and Habitat Programs

cc: Representative Gerald Hocker
Representative Melanie George
Save our Swans Committee