

## T H E G R E A T O U T D O O R S



## Stopping on the Way to a Friendlier Climate

The cranberry bogs of southern New Jersey must have looked pretty good to the tundra swans flying several thousand miles from Alaska and the Northwest Territories of Canada to the Carolinas, fighting periodic wing icing. The flat, open marshes and reservoirs of the Whitesbog area of Lebanon State Forest don't look so different from the tundra back home.

Consider, too, the rapid disappearance of their natural habitat and the fact that swan hunting was banned here at the turn of the century, and you can understand why up to 1,000 migratory swans have made 3,000 acres of man-made cranberry bogs their winter resort over the last 30 years.

That's up from a mere handful in the 1960's, says Len Little, a Pemberton High School history teacher and swan enthusiast who has explored the varied bird life of the Pine Barrens since he was a teen-ager.

Although both have wingspans of up to seven feet, the tundra swan differs from the common mute swan in that it holds its neck straight, not in an S curve, and has a black rather than an orange bill. The Arctic swans fly in weather that is so cold their wings actually do ice up when they hit Canada after they leave New Jersey in early spring.



PHOTOGRAPHS AND TEXT  
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Martha Windisch, a wildlife educator at Whitesbog Village in Lebanon State Forest, on the lookout for migrating tundra swans in a nearby cranberry bog.