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From: "Sue Thompson" <thompson@pabiodiversity.org>  
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Subject: PABIODIV: Tundra Swans Watching Week February 10, 2003

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For Immediate Release  
Tundra Swan Watching Week in Pennsylvania  
Announced by Friends of Animals

Friends of Animals, an international animal advocacy organization with more than 200,000 members worldwide, today announced that it is designating the week of March 2-8, 2003 in Pennsylvania as Tundra Swan Watching Week. The proclamation reads:

Proclamation  
Tundra Swan Watching Week  
March 2-8, 2003

WHEREAS, Tundra Swan watchers in Pennsylvania and elsewhere in North America enjoy observing the pre-migratory staging concentrations, and migrations, of these elegant swans with seven feet wingspreads; and

WHEREAS, Tundra Swan watching is becoming an increasingly popular activity in the Commonwealth where we are fortunate to have several important pre-migratory staging areas as part of the eastern migration corridor, and Tundra Swans migrate across Pennsylvania on their way north to their arctic breeding grounds; and

WHEREAS, large lakes, reservoirs, and rivers in the Commonwealth are outstanding places to observe and photograph Tundra Swans, such as the Susquehanna River from Washington Boro to Lewisburg, Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area in Lebanon County, Blue Marsh Lake and sometimes Lake Ontelaunee in Berks County, Lake Chillisquaque in the PPL Montour Preserve in Montour County, Lake Pymatuning in Crawford County, and wetlands along parts of Lake Erie; and

WHEREAS, Tundra Swan watching and photography is developing a new type of wildlife tourism in Pennsylvania.

Therefore, Friends of Animals, does hereby proclaim the week of March 2-8, 2003, as TUNDRA SWAN WATCHING WEEK in Pennsylvania and encourage all Pennsylvanians to take advantage of this opportunity to observe the elegant beauty and natural wonder of Tundra Swans.

The proclamation is designed to encourage widespread public interest in appreciation and protection of Tundra Swans in Pennsylvania. A second objective is to take the first steps in developing Tundra Swan watching and photography as a whole new branch of ecotourism in Pennsylvania.

The Tundra Swan proclamation comes only weeks before Friends of Animals hosts Tundra Swan Watching Weekend 2003 at The Eden Resorts in Lancaster, PA. The event is open to the public by prior registration, or registration on March 8th if space remains available.

Tundra Swan Watching Weekend 2003 includes a one day Tundra Swan Conference on March 8th at The Eden Resorts with invited speakers discussing a range of topics--birding, photography, education, family outings, legal status, ecotourism, the media, and more--pertaining to Tundra Swans and their appreciation and protection in Pennsylvania.

On Sunday, March 9th, a field trip by bus will be taken to the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area near Kleinfeltersville, PA. where 10,000 or more Tundra Swans gather as part of their pre-migratory staging prior to flying north to their North American arctic nesting grounds. Just as recreational hawk watching brings millions of ecotourist dollars into some Pennsylvania communities, Friends of Animals believes watching and photographing Tundra Swans--and recognizing the large white birds as

wonderful symbols of wildness and wetlands protection--likewise can bring tourism dollars into some local and regional Pennsylvania communities.

Cities, towns, villages, and townships along the Susquehanna River, and near Middle Creek in Lancaster and Lebanon counties, are especially well positioned to benefit from organized Tundra Swan ecotourism programs.

Persons wanting more information about Tundra Swan Watching Weekend 2003 can access the Friends of Animals Web site at [www.friendsofanimals.org](http://www.friendsofanimals.org), call them at (203) 656-1522, or write to them at 777 Post Road, Suite 205, Darien, CT 06820.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Please be careful not to confuse Friends of Animals with any other organizations with somewhat similar sounding names.

Thank you.

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The Pennsylvania Biodiversity Listserve encourages open discussion about biodiversity issues in the state. It is hosted by the Allegheny Institute of Natural History, University of Pittsburgh-Bradford and is moderated by the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership. The opinions expressed in messages are those of the authors and NOT the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership.