

Episode: Birds of Winter

EXPLORING NORTH CAROLINA



USEFUL VOCABULARY

camouflage
decoy
ecosystem
extinct
foraging
migration route
peninsula
raptors
wildlife refuge

CHAPTER 1 (2:00–4:50)

1. Identify (on a map) the area of eastern North Carolina that is a unique location for extremely large numbers of winter birds.
Albemarle Peninsula.
2. What are several factors that make this area of eastern North Carolina an ecological wonderland?
Climate, location on Atlantic coast, abundant plant and animal food sources.

CHAPTER 2 (4:50–9:57)

3. What types of geese and swans did John Lawson describe in the early 18th century?
Tundra swans, trumpeter swans, Canada geese and snow geese.
4. How can you distinguish between a flock of tundra swans and a flock of snow geese in the sky?
Up to 12 swans fly together in a flock. Snow geese fly together in the tens of thousands.
5. Name two reasons it is essential for the migratory birds of winter to be well fed before flying back to their homes.
They must have enough “fuel” to survive the long trip to their northern homes and be healthy enough to reproduce when they arrive.

CHAPTER 3 (9:57–14:57)

6. How has the landscape of eastern North Carolina changed since the early 1900s?
Loggers have cleared land, commercial and residential growth has skyrocketed, environmental protection areas have being established.
7. Years ago, wood ducks almost became extinct because they were hunted for what purpose?
Feathers for hats and decorations.

CHAPTER 4 (14:57-16:40)

8. What is the primary mission of a wildlife refuge?
To maintain habitat for wildlife.
9. What are some activities that visitors to a wildlife refuge might have permission to do?
Observe wildlife, attend classes, take photographs, fish and sometimes hunt.
10. During what two months would you see the largest numbers of migratory winter birds on the Albemarle Peninsula?
December and January.

CHAPTER 5 (16:40-19:27)

11. What types of wood are used to make decoys? Why?
Juniper, white pine and cypress. Because they float well.
12. What is a method of creating a decoy that does not require wood?
Stretching canvas over a wire frame.

CHAPTER 6 (19:27-END)

13. What is an important advantage of a female duck's drab color?
She is camouflaged well when sitting on her eggs.
14. Even though geese and swans usually have lifetime mates, what are some reasons they might go their separate ways?
No success after a couple of nesting attempts; if one dies, the other might find a new mate.
15. What do scientists believe helps migratory birds find their way back home?
Landmarks such as mountains; the stars; and possibly an internal type of telemetry.