



DEC/Scott Smith

Wildlife is everywhere.

Animals are found wherever there is suitable habitat.

Some species have adapted to live near people and may be seen where they were once unfamiliar visitors. Many—such as bobcat, fisher, owls and coyotes—are nocturnal (active mostly at night) or secretive and are noticed only by careful observers or by their tracks or other signs.



David Cappaert, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org

Habitat = Home

The area in which an animal normally lives is called its habitat. In their habitat, they find food, water, shelter and enough space to live. Good habitat for one kind of animal may be poor habitat for others. (e.g., Deer don't live in the ocean, and whales aren't found in the forest.)



Jim Clayton



Erica Szlosek, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Knowing what kinds of habitat different species prefer helps us to enjoy wildlife.

If we want to see wildlife, we can visit their habitat and watch for them. Lots of people like to watch birds, so it's helpful to know which are found in grasslands, which prefer forests, and which we may see in backyards or on school grounds.



Mona Bearor, Southern Adirondack Audubon

Knowing what kinds of habitat different species prefer helps us manage wildlife.

By making changes to habitat, we can encourage wildlife to live in places where we'd like to have them. We can also discourage wildlife by making changes. If a habitat doesn't meet their needs, they will leave.