



# WAYS YOU CAN HELP THE ENVIRONMENT



## *Checklist of things to observe at the nursery:*

- ◇ Some birds. They might be song birds, birds of prey, game birds or water birds.
- ◇ Four different types of insects. Are they pollinators, bugs that eat plants or predators that eat plant eaters?
- ◇ A mammal.
- ◇ A reptile.
- ◇ A nest or other natural animal home.
- ◇ A man-made animal home.
- ◇ A water source for animals.
- ◇ Something growing that animals might eat.
- ◇ A plant hummingbirds might be attracted to.
- ◇ Listen for birdsong. How many different songs can you hear?
- ◇ Can you hear any other natural sounds? What are they?

The earth is home to thousands of different plants and animals. Unfortunately, many species are disappearing forever, or becoming extinct. Some people say up to a hundred species and subspecies become extinct somewhere in the world every day.

As the world population grows, so does man's need for space to live, grow food and harvest the earth's natural resources. We have to be careful not to crowd out plants and animals in the process.

Preserving biodiversity, or a wide range of life on the planet, is important for lots of reasons. For one, we need plants to produce oxygen and to absorb carbon dioxide, the gas we exhale when we breath. Carbon dioxide is also produced when we burn wood and coal, among other things. Without plants, we won't have enough oxygen.

An excess of carbon dioxide will also cause the earth's temperature to rise, causing problems that could change how human's live in ways we can't even imagine!



## *Put Litter in Its Place*

- Always put trash in a trash can.
- Recycle things that can be reused, like plastic, paper and cans.
- Dispose of waste safely, like cutting soda can connectors to prevent birds and other animals from becoming entangled in them.
- Organize clean-ups with your scout troop, school class or other organization to pick up litter in places that need help.

# Wildlife In Your Backyard

Set up a tent or home-made wildlife blind in your backyard. Left in place for a few days, birds and small mammals will become used to it and forget to pay attention. You can hide inside your blind to observe creatures up close and learn all sorts of things about them, like the foods they eat and how they interact with each other.



- 1) choose a place centrally located to brush, trees, feeders and a water source
- 2) set up your tent, or use a blanket thrown over some branches to create your blind
- 3) leave the blind in place for a few days to let the animals become used to its presence
- 4) pack a snack, some binoculars, identification books on birds and mammals, a notebook or sketchbook and some colored pencils or crayons

5) sit quietly in your wildlife blind and observe, making notes and sketches of the things you see going on in your backyard, and recording things like the weather and the season

6) learn more about what you see by searching the web and using books to look up the animals you see around you and how they depend on other animals, plants and insects

Think about how different animals, plants and insects affect each other, and what would happen if one of them became extinct. It's a chain reaction!



## Naturalist's Notebook:

Make a sketch of the most interesting animal you found at the nursery, then ask a nursery person to tell you about it. See if you can find out more at the library or online.

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