



Wildlife of Young Forests

IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

EASTERN TOWHEE *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*



Description: Slightly smaller than a robin. Black above, white belly, rufous sides.

Young Forest Habitat: Woods with a few large trees and thick, shrubby undergrowth. Nests on or near the ground.

Fun Fact: Song is a distinct *drink your tea*.

INDIGO BUNTING *Passerina cyanea*



Description: Brilliant blue, w/black patch in front of the eyes; dark wings edged in blue.

Young Forest Habitat: Herbaceous fields, shrublands, young forests.

Fun Fact: Color comes from microscopic structures in the feathers that refract and reflect blue light.

NEW ENGLAND COTTONTAIL *Sylvilagus transitionalis*



Description: 15-17 inches. Slightly smaller than the more-abundant Eastern cottontail. Weighs 2.2-3 pounds.

Young Forest Habitat: Old fields growing up with shrubs, shrub swamps, recently logged areas, coastal shrublands.

Fun Fact: Inspiration for Peter Cottontail in children's stories by Thornton W. Burgess.

MONARCH BUTTERFLY *Danaus plexippus*



Description: Adults, 3.5-4" wingspan. Orange w/black veins and black margins w/white spots. Caterpillar banded yellow, black and white.

Young Forest Habitat: Meadows, gardens with milkweed (caterpillars eat the leaves). Adults sip nectar of many flowers.

Fun Fact: Migrates to Mexico for winter.



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LARGE MILKWEED BUG

Oncopeltus fasciatus



Description: Adults .4-.7". Orange and black. Nymphs orange w/black spots on abdomen and black wing pads.

Young Forest Habitat: Meadows or gardens with milkweed; feeds on milkweed seeds.

Fun Fact: In New Hampshire from August to October, then migrates south.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER

Thamnophis sirtalis



Description: Brightly colored w/chestnut sides, white belly, yellow cap and black mustache.

Young Forest Habitat: Old fields with a high density of shrubs or young trees, or young hardwood forests.

Fun Fact: Song is a distinct, *pleased, pleased, pleased to meet you.*

SMOOTH GREEN SNAKE

Liochlorophis vernalis



Description: 10-20 inches. A thin, slender bright-green snake. Underside is white or pale yellow.

Young Forest Habitat: Old fields, wet meadows, shrub swamps, open woodlands and clearings in forests.

Fun Fact: Hibernates underground, sometimes communally with other snakes.

YELLOW WARBLER

Setophaga petechia



Description: Yellow w/chestnut streaks on breast; prominent dark eyes.

Young Forest Habitat: Shrubby wetlands and old fields. Young hardwood or mixed forests.

Fun Fact: Will build a new nest directly on the old, sometimes resulting in multiple tiers.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK

Seolopax minor



Description: Short, stocky birds w/patterned cinnamon coloring and a long bill used to probe for worms.

Young Forest Habitat: Needs thick shrublands or young hardwoods on moist soils with old fields or orchards to perform its spring breeding "dance."

Fun Fact: Diet is 80% earthworms.

BLACK RACER SNAKE

Coluber constrictor constrictor



Description: Glossy black on top and bottom; white throat and chin.

Young Forest Habitat: Dry brushy pastures, power-line corridors and woodlands, including recent clearcuts.

Fun Fact: Can move about 4 miles per hour, about the speed of a fast human walk.



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