


Activity – Wetland Wildlife Detective



(Grades 1 – 6)

Overview: After the highly visible animals have been sighted it is useful to consider the wide range of other users of the wetland that cannot be seen. Many animals visit the site only at night, or at certain times of the year. Print out copies of the field sheets (example shown below) from link on DEP website. Provide one per student, and take pencils to fill them in. This activity encourages students to look closely at their surroundings and identify evidence of the users of the wetland from signs, tracks and scats.

Task: Ask students to try and piece together the users and residents of the wetland. Look out for tracks you find, scats, feathers and any other ‘evidence’ of life. Look for dragonfly carapaces (exoskeletons) on fringing vegetation, mammal footprints in the mud, and feathers from different types of bird. Describe what it is and where you found it. Do a quick sketch of your answer.



Wetland Wildlife Detective
Look, Record and Draw, But Don't Collect!

What types of animal you can see:

Birds:
Mammals:
Amphibians:
Reptiles:
Insects:
Other invertebrates:

Evidence of animals (signs, tracks, scats):

Evidence 1:	Evidence 2:	Evidence 3:
Where did you find it?	Where did you find it?	Where did you find it?
What animal did it come from?	What animal did it come from?	What animal did it come from?
Draw it:	Draw it:	Draw it:

Can you find:

	What is it?	Where does it occur?
Something that might be home to an animal		
Something that might be food for birds		
Something that stops waterflow into wetlands		
Something you have never seen before		
Something that was once alive		
Something that is impossible to count		
A plant that is not native (a weed)		
A living thing that doesn't move		
An unexpected type of litter		