



Scenarios

Role-play each of these scenarios, and consider what might happen to you, as a bird, if each one actually occurs.

Scenario 1 - Cowbird Delight

A new suburban town called “Cowbird Delight” has just been developed. Eight sections of forest were cut to develop this town. *(Remove 8 sections from the forest. The birds that were in these sections must leave the forest.)*

This new development has opened many new areas for the Brown-headed Cowbird to feed. The Brown-headed Cowbird likes to feed along forest edges, farms, feed lots, roadsides, and towns. A female Cowbird flies into the forest and lays its eggs in the nests of 20 different Warbling Vireos. The Cowbird eggs hatch first. When the Warbling Vireo eggs hatch, the young are pushed out of their nest by the bigger Brown-headed Cowbird. *(If you are a Warbling Vireo, your breeding has not been successful. You must leave the forest.)*

Scenario 2 - Pesticides, Caterpillars, and Birds

A large tract of forest habitat in a recreation area in your state has been infested with caterpillars. The people who use this area are complaining about the caterpillars. They are concerned that the caterpillars are destroying the leaves of the forest trees. They are also concerned because the caterpillars are found in such great numbers that they are ruining their recreational experience. The forest managers of this area have decided to spray a pesticide over this forest to control the caterpillars. The pesticide worked and greatly reduced the number of caterpillars.

A big problem, however, resulted from this spraying. Yellow-throated Warblers could not find enough caterpillars to feed newly hatched babies. The nesting season was not successful and the warblers left this forest in search of a better area to live. *(If you are a Yellow-throated Warbler, your breeding has not been successful. You must leave the forest.)*

Scenario 3 - Where are the Birds of Prey?

Bird watching is one of Jesse and Trina’s favorite hobbies. Each spring they look for birds in a forested area they have been visiting for the past 10 years. Some of their favorite birds to spot are birds of prey, such as the Cooper’s Hawk, Great Horned Owl, and Long-eared Owl.

This spring when Jesse and Trina arrive at the forest, they notice that a large part of the forest had been cleared for a new development. Eight sections of forest were cut for this development. *(Remove 8 sections from the forest. The birds that were in these sections must move over into the remaining sections.)*

They also notice that after spending several days bird watching, they could not find any of their favorite birds of prey. They meet a wildlife biologist. She explains that clearing the land for the development caused many small mammals to leave this forest in search of other places to live. The Cooper’s Hawk, Great Horned Owl, and Long-eared Owl are birds of prey. They depend on small mammals for their food. Because there are fewer small mammals in this forest, many of the birds of prey left to find a better place to live with more food. *(If you are a Cooper’s Hawk, Great Horned Owl, or Long-eared Owl, you can not find food and you must leave the forest.)*