

Wildlife Signs

Time – 35 minutes

Persons – 2

Materials –

- Binoculars
- Wildlife worksheet
- Field guides
- Field checklists (optional)
- Magnifying glasses (optional)

Note: Wildlife and birds are shy and may be hard to observe. You may want to send your wildlife observers directly upstream or downstream of your transect so the noise and activity of the vegetation survey won't interfere with their observations. Only do this if it is safe and practical.

1. Slowly walk a 100 foot length along the stream's edge. Look carefully for tracks, scat or other animal signs. Also watch for birds, mammals, reptiles, or amphibians as you walk. Record all species that can be identified by sight or sound on the wildlife signs worksheet. Also note how the wildlife may have been using the riparian area, and the type of observation.
2. Return to approximately the middle of the length of stream you just walked, and walk 20 paces away from the stream's edge. Stand quietly, watching and listening for two minutes. Record all species that can be identified.
3. Slowly walk back toward the stream, looking for tracks, scat or other animal signs. Once you have reached the stream, listen and watch for another two minutes. Repeat this procedure at three points (more if time allows) along the stream.
4. After sampling, spend any extra time investigating the entire site looking for animals or signs of them.