



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

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Fernald  
Preserve

# WILD AT HOME



Operation Wildlife Observation!

You don't have to journey to exotic locations to watch wildlife, there's plenty to see just by looking out your window or sitting on your porch! Observing nature can be done almost anywhere and any time of day.

**All you need are your senses and a place to sit.**



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## Watching Wildlife – Ready, Set, SIT STILL!

Unless we're sleeping, most humans are busy creatures. We're working, playing, and on our mobile devices almost without pause. When we stop moving and step away from technology, we can see all the wildlife activity we didn't take time to notice before.

Being still and quiet are harder than you think. Take this challenge: find a comfortable place to sit where you can see a clock. For one minute sit perfectly still, without moving or making any noise.





## Nature Journals

Keeping a journal is a great addition to your nature watching. Think of it as a wildlife diary. You can write anything you want about what you observe. Some naturalists include lots of details, such as what the weather is like (temperature, humidity, wind conditions).

You can draw pictures and write poems or stories. There's no right or wrong way to keep a nature journal, after all it's **your** journal! The only real rule of thumb is making sure it is easy to carry or fit in a backpack so you can take it with you. Don't forget to date and sign your entries!







## Try nature observing & journaling for 20, 30, or 60 minutes and think about the following questions:

-  How much time passed before you first saw wildlife activity?
-  What is the weather like? Do you think it affected what wildlife you did or did not see?
-  What animals did you see? Don't forget, insects are animals too!
-  What sounds did you hear? Were any of them animal sounds?



## Follow-Up Activities

-  Try nature observing/journaling at different times. Do you think you will see the same animals in the morning, at dusk, or at night?
-  Do you think human activity in your neighborhood might affect what wildlife you see?
-  Try observing for several days in a row. What animals do you see most often?
-  Do any animals call your neighborhood home or are they just passing through?

