

Insects and other invertebrates

Jason Martin



Insects and other invertebrates (those creatures without a back bone) are the most numerous and diverse fauna in the Forest Preserve. They can be found in all parts of the forest from in the soil to the tops of trees and everywhere in between. Some insects require certain plants found in the Forest Preserve to live. The Spicebush Swallowtail Butterfly caterpillar needs the spicebush plant to feed and the Zebra Swallowtail Butterfly caterpillar needs the PawPaw tree to feed. Insects and other invertebrates are crucial for the



ecosystem functioning of the Forest Preserve. They provide food for birds, salamanders, frogs, and other insects, while helping to breakdown dead wood and animals so that nutrients such as carbon and nitrogen are available to be used again.

So while you are out enjoying the woods do not forget the little guys!

