

SWAMPS

SWAMPS are wetlands that are predominated by shrubs or trees. Swamps can have hardwood trees growing with “wet feet”, or, as in cedar swamps, with the water just below ground level.

Wooded swamps provide important habitat for many types of plants and animals. White-tailed deer use dense coniferous swamps for winter cover. An abundant supply of winter food is critical for white-tail survival, and swamp vegetation such as red maple, dogwood, and cedar forms an important part of the deer diet.

Other animals that use swamps for food or cover include hawks and owls, rabbits and

hares, raccoons, coyotes and wolves, black bears and a variety of songbirds. Wood ducks often nest in hollow trees in open swamps.

Carrs are swamps predominated by shrub thicket, usually willow, dogwood, or alder. Woodcock often live in alder thickets where they probe the moist earth for earthworms, their main food. Many songbirds nest in carrs and feed on the berries and seeds that are abundant in the fall.

Swamps are important water storage areas. They help prevent flooding in spring by acting as natural reservoirs. Swamps can also help prevent drought conditions by slowly releasing water during dry summer months.

