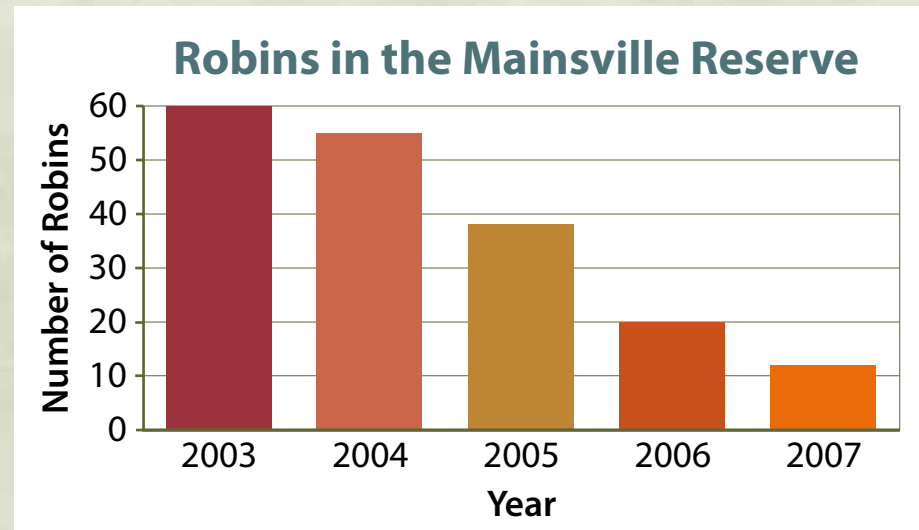


Bird Study

Members of the Mainsville Nature Club study 3 **species** (SPEE-seez) of birds in the reserve. They count the number of each species they see. They do this for 5 years. Then they make graphs of their data, like the graph below.



LET'S EXPLORE MATH

Look at the graph above.

- Between which 2 years did robin numbers drop the most?
- About how many robins were there in 2004?
- Did the number of robins increase in any year?
- About how many more robins were there in 2004 than in 2007?

Bird Predictions

The bird watchers look at the graphs. They predict that the number of birds will keep dropping. Are numbers dropping in the reserve only? What is the number of birds in Mainsville Woods?

The bird watchers begin to count the birds in the woods. Their data is surprising. There are many more birds outside the reserve than inside!



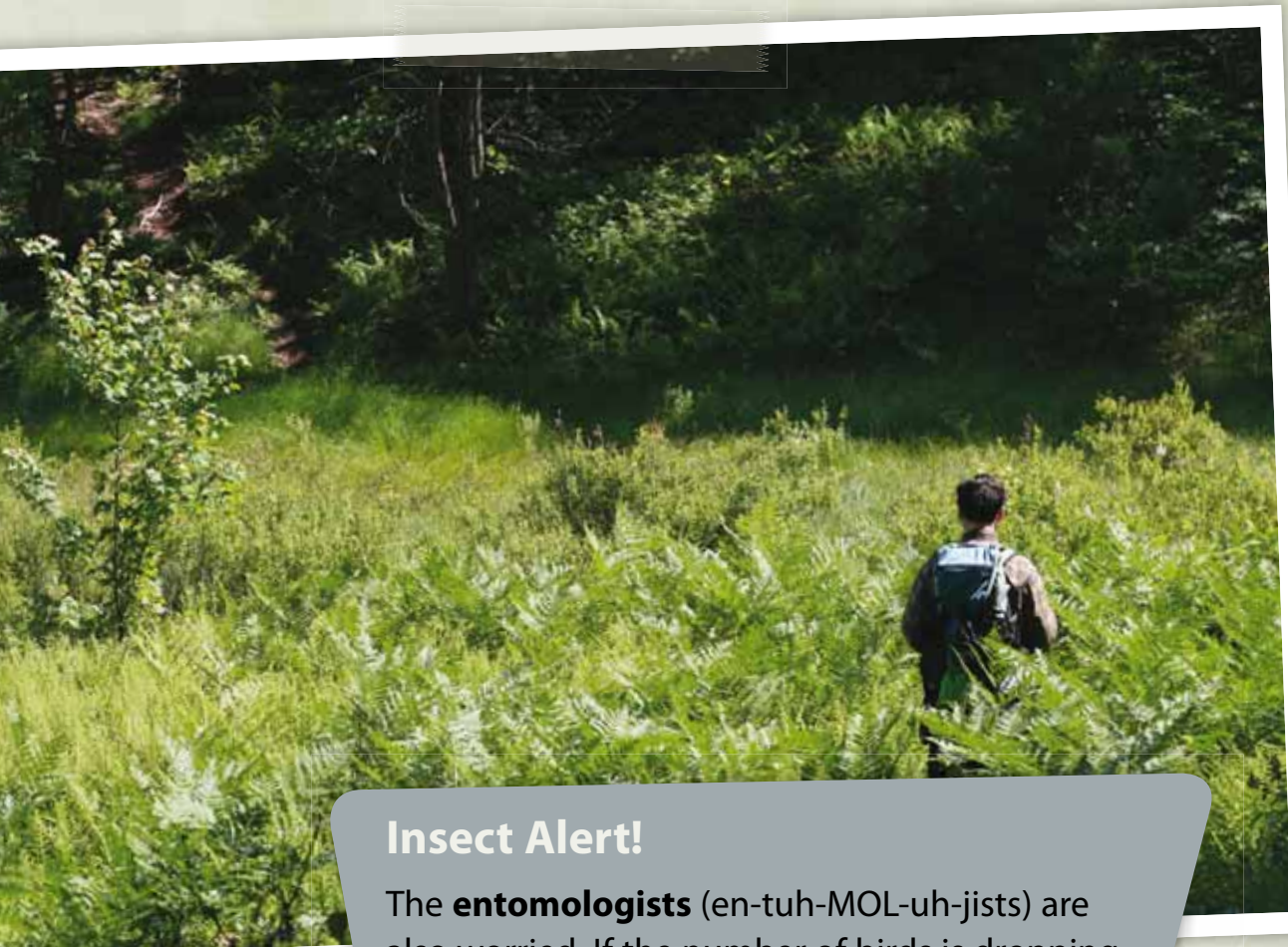
You Predict

Can you predict why bird numbers are dropping in the reserve? Perhaps you need more data before you can think of an **accurate** answer.

Expert Help

What is happening to the birds in the reserve? Expert help is needed. The members of the nature club ask wildlife scientist, Alex Brown, for help.

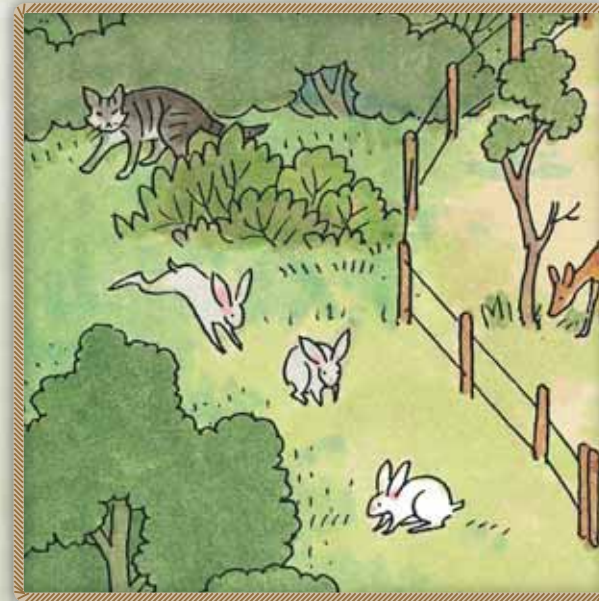
Mr. Brown needs to collect data. He chooses 2 areas of the woods to study. He calls them *Area A* (in the reserve) and *Area B* (outside the reserve).



Insect Alert!

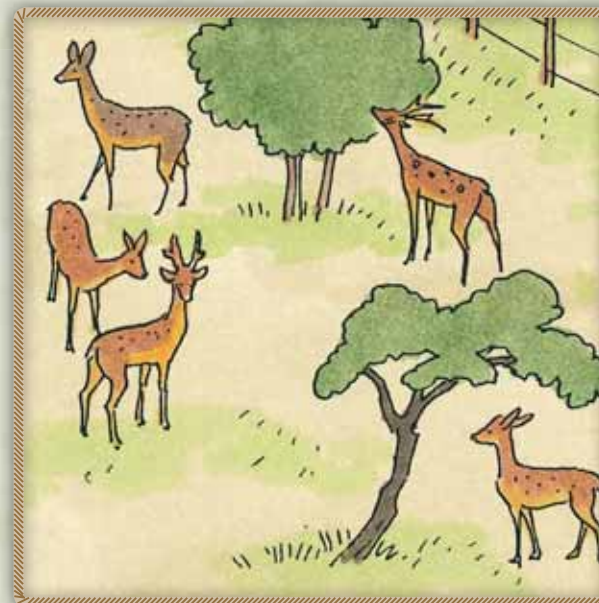
The **entomologists** (en-tuh-MOL-uh-jists) are also worried. If the number of birds is dropping, will the number of insects increase or decrease?

Plant Data



First, Mr. Brown studies plants. He uses string to mark out a grid in each area he studies. He collects data on how much space each plant type in the grid takes up.

This is one of the areas Mr. Brown studies outside the reserve.



This is one of the areas Mr. Brown studies inside the reserve.