

# Making Connections

Just as residents of Manhattan today rely on networks of goods and services, so did those on the island in 1609. A Beaver, for example, needed a meandering stream and trees for food and shelter. The beaver, in turn, created a pond for fish and frogs. By tracing such relationships, researchers mapped out a network of likely species, called the Muir Web (after naturalist John Muir), as depicted in this simplified chart (below).



In this visualization of the entire Muir Web of Manhattan, beavers are only one of thousands of species and relationships.

## What a Beaver Needs

Beavers need these elements to meet their habitat requirements.

- Freshwater streams provide water for ...
- Ponds provide food and water for ...
- Freshwater marshes provide water for ...

Streams, ponds, marshes, and other freshwater elements of the landscape depend on factors such as rainfall, topography, and groundwater.

- American beech trees provide food for ...
- Birch trees provide food for ...
- Eastern cottonwoods provide food for ...
- Aspen trees provide food for ...
- Maple trees provide food for ...
- Box elder trees provide food for ...
- Willow trees provide food for ...

Beavers are fond of trees near water, such as aspens or willows, which in turn depend on soil type, soil moisture, and other factors.

◀ TO THE REST OF THE MUIR WEB

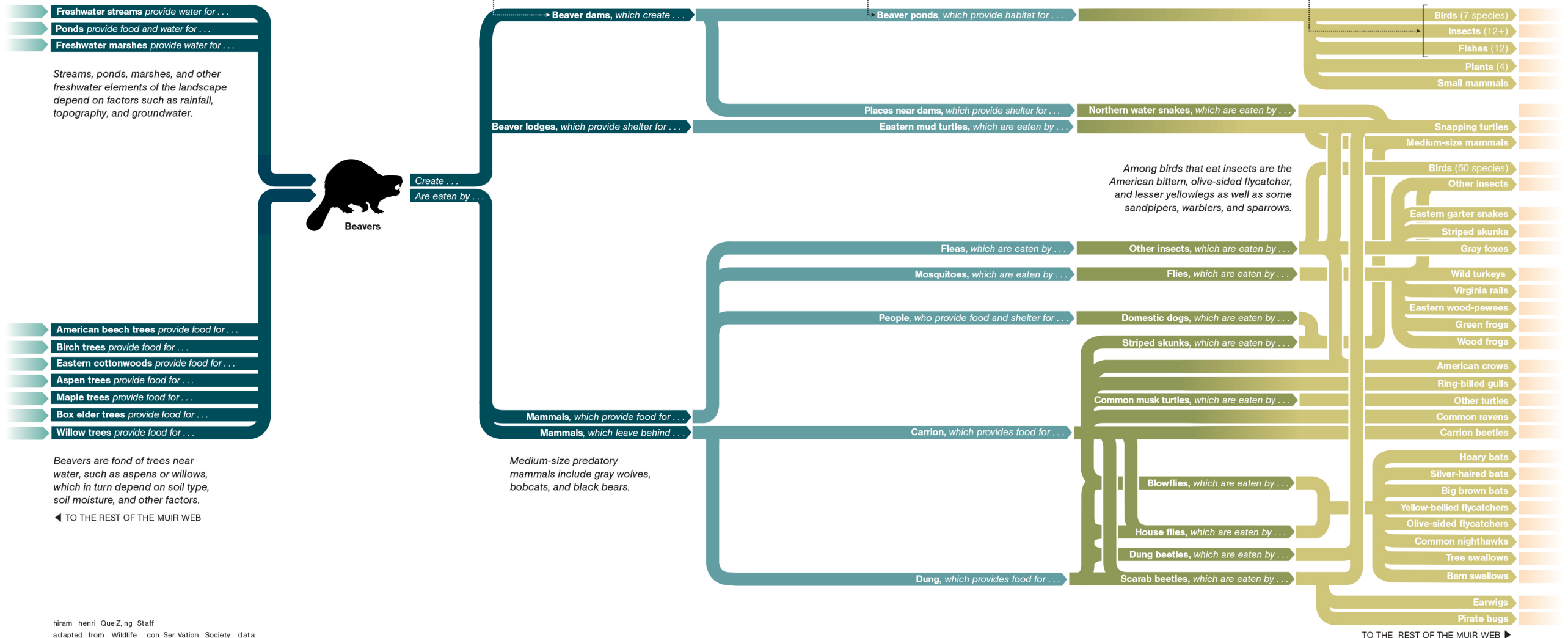
## What Needs a Beaver

Beavers create habitat and serve as prey for other species.

**1** a beaver builds a dam for shelter and a place to raise young.

**2** the dam creates a beaver pond by blocking a slowly meandering stream.

**3** the pond provides habitat for birds, insects, and fishes.



hiram henri QueZ,ng Staff  
adapted from Wildlife on Ser Vation Society data