

## LIFE, INTERACTIONS, AND ECOLOGICAL MODELING

Life does not occur in a vacuum. It consists of processes with very fundamental characteristics that are related to and affected by the milieu in which they are taking place. The analytical ecologist, regardless of the species he is studying, must not only understand these basic processes but also relate them to the environment of the free-ranging organism. This is a challenge! It is difficult to interject oneself into the life of an organism-environment relationships does, however, provide a starting point for the development of analytical models that represent these processes and relationships in a numerical way. The fund of knowledge available today, along with computer capabilities that permit rapid analyses, provides a potential for understanding that far exceeds anything available in the past.

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