

FOREST ISLAND HABITAT

Forest islands and their edges are an important habitat for many animal and plant species. A forest island consists of three zones, the forest-like **core zone** (I), a **fringe of shrubs** (II) and a zone of **herbaceous perennials** (III) in front of it. This typical structure is very rare, as the edge of the forest is often destroyed by paths, buildings or farmland. However, these habitats are also an important protection for the forest itself. The smoother the transition from open landscape to forest, the lower the risk of the wind blowing under the treetops during storms and uprooting the outer rows of trees or introducing pollutants into the forest. **Typical trees in our area** (rain shadow of the Harz mountains) are, for example, Sessile Oak¹, Hornbeam² and Small-leaved Lime³. Forest islands provide habitats and retreats for numerous bird species (woodpeckers, nuthatches, robins...), mammals (foxes, bats...) and insects.

The woodland fringe of shrubs in our area naturally consists of Blackthorn⁴, Privet⁵, Hawthorn⁶, Wild Roses⁷ and Buckthorn⁸. It provides shelter for hedgehogs and hares and many songbirds can be found here (e.g. blackcap and nightingale). Butterflies such as the Silver-washed Fritillary and the Holly Blue also have their habitat in this area.

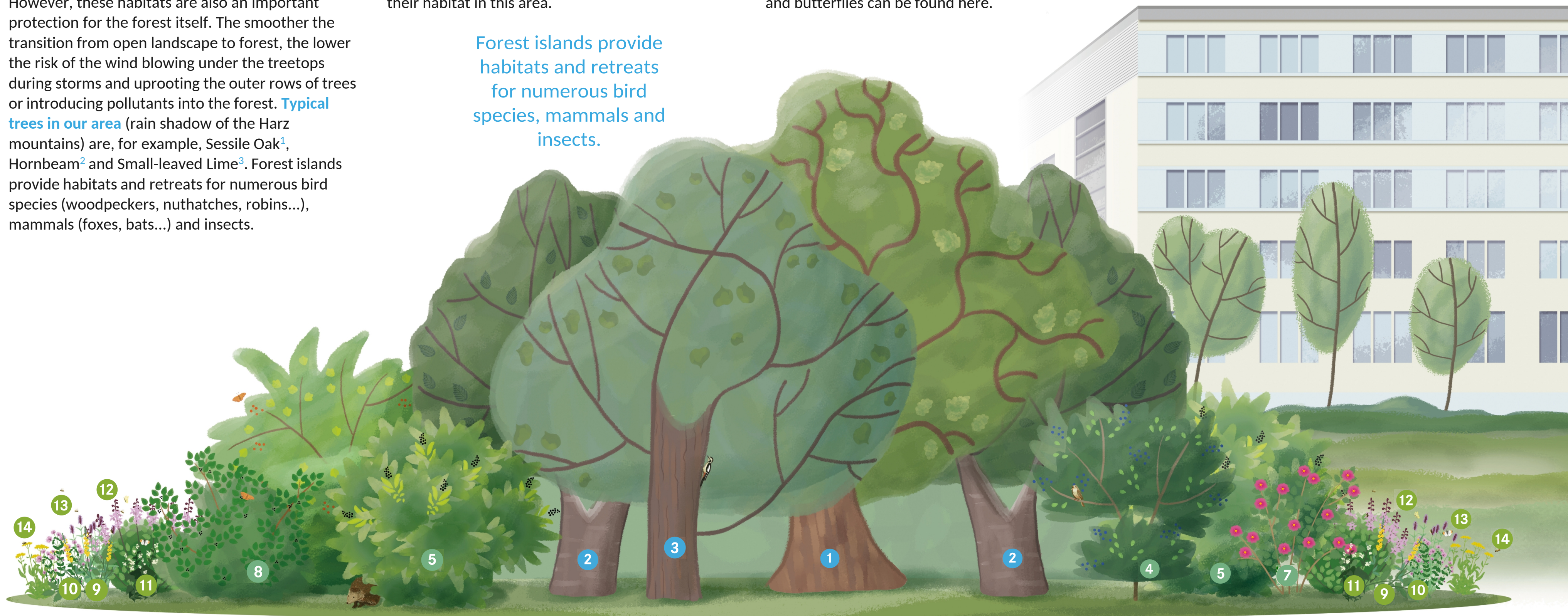
In the herbaceous zone, for example, Common Agrimony⁹, Wild Marjoram¹⁰, White Swallow-wort¹¹, Dictamus¹², Betonica officinalis¹³ or Pentanema germanicum¹⁴ form the transition to the open landscape. This zone is particularly important for flower-visiting insects. Bees, bumblebees and butterflies can be found here.

Forest islands provide habitats and retreats for numerous bird species, mammals and insects.

- 1 Sessile oak
- 2 Hornbeam
- 3 Small-leaved lime

- 4 Blackthorn
- 5 Privet
- 6 Hawthorn
- 7 Wild roses
- 8 Buckthorn

- 9 Common Agrimony
- 10 Wild Marjoram White
- 11 Swallow-wort
- 12 Dictamus
- 13 Betonica officinalis
- 14 Pentanema germanicum



III Herbaceous perennials zone

II Shrub zone

I Core zone

II Shrub zone

III Herbaceous perennials zone