

## Notes 1.4 Wetland Environments

A wetland is an area of land that is covered with a shallow layer of water for part or all of a year.

### Types of Wetlands

Three types of freshwater wetlands...

- 1) Marshes- grassy areas covered by shallow water or a stream.
- 2) Swamps- look like flooded forest with trees and shrubs sprouting from the water. Usually found in warm, humid areas.
- 3) Bogs- usually found in cooler northern areas where retreating ice sheets formed depressions thousands of years ago. Tend to be acidic, where mosses thrive.

Wetlands along the coast usually contain both fresh and salt water.  
Examples: salt marshes and mangrove forests.

### Importance of Wetlands

#### Importance to Wildlife

Since their waters are sheltered and are rich in nutrients, wetlands provide a rich habitat for living things. Birds rely on wetlands for rest and food.

#### Importance to People

Wetlands help to prevent floods and act as a filtration system for pollutants.