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AN ECOLOGIST for more than forty years, Mike Rosenzweig has worked with mathematical theories of predation dynamics, foraging choice and species diversity. He opened the era of modern ecological research on desert animals. He founded the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at University of Arizona. He founded and serves as Editor-in-Chief for the journal *Evolutionary Ecology Research*.

More recently he has worked out the way the number of species depends on the amount of area available to them. The latter discovery supplies the scientific basis for reconciliation ecology. This very interesting and novel way of looking at the maintenance and management of species diversity on our planet is what Dr. Rosenzweig will tell you about today. I hope you will listen closely and take this message to heart. Take this message home and discuss it with your friends and family. You are the generation that will either suffer the consequences of human kind's inability to make decisions that will keep life pleasant and enjoyable for all who inhabit this most unique and precious planet – or - you will be known as the generation that finally got behind the idea that some things on our planet are worth saving just because without them their loss would lead to a monotony that would dull our experiences and remove the many joys we currently take for granted.

Humans need diversity to keep them interested. If you do not believe this, just think of the travel industry – it is built on selling people a diversity of environments to visit and enjoy. What do people choose to do when they wish to relax? Do commercial theme parks answer all of our needs for enjoyment?

If diversity and the beauty of natural surroundings – even in an urban environment like Nashville – is what appeals to you, then considerations of how to maintain and contribute to the preservation of species diversity is something you need to understand and take to heart. We are very fortunate to have with us today someone who really is at the Frontier of Ecology and Evolution and we thank him for traveling from the University of Arizona in Tucson to share his research findings and insightful conclusions on the species-area concept with us.