**Ecological Niche Partitioning**

**Niche** – the total use of an organism’s use of biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) resources in its environment.

**Fundamental Niche** – resources theoretically available under ideal circumstances for a population if organisms.

**Realized Niche** – resources a population of organisms actually use.

**Tolerance** – ability to survive and reproduce under a variety of environmental circumstances.

****

**Figure 1. Shelford’s law of tolerance.**

**Competition:**

Limiting resources shape an organism’s behavior and overall niche in a community.

**Competitive Exclusion Principle:**

 No two species can occupy the same niche in exactly the same way at the same time.

 \*\*This is an important factor that determines the potential biodiversity of an ecosystem.



**Figure 2: Spatial Niche Partitioning of a Tree between different bird species Figure 3: Two Species occupying same niche**