

The distribution is the area occupied by a population or species, the dispersion is the pattern of spacing of the animals within it, and dispersal, migration, and local movement are the actions that modify dispersion and distribution. Dispersal plays a key role in dictating the rate of spread of a species reintroduced into a new area or of one recovering from catastrophic decline. The limiting factor can often be identified by the trend in density from the range boundary inward.