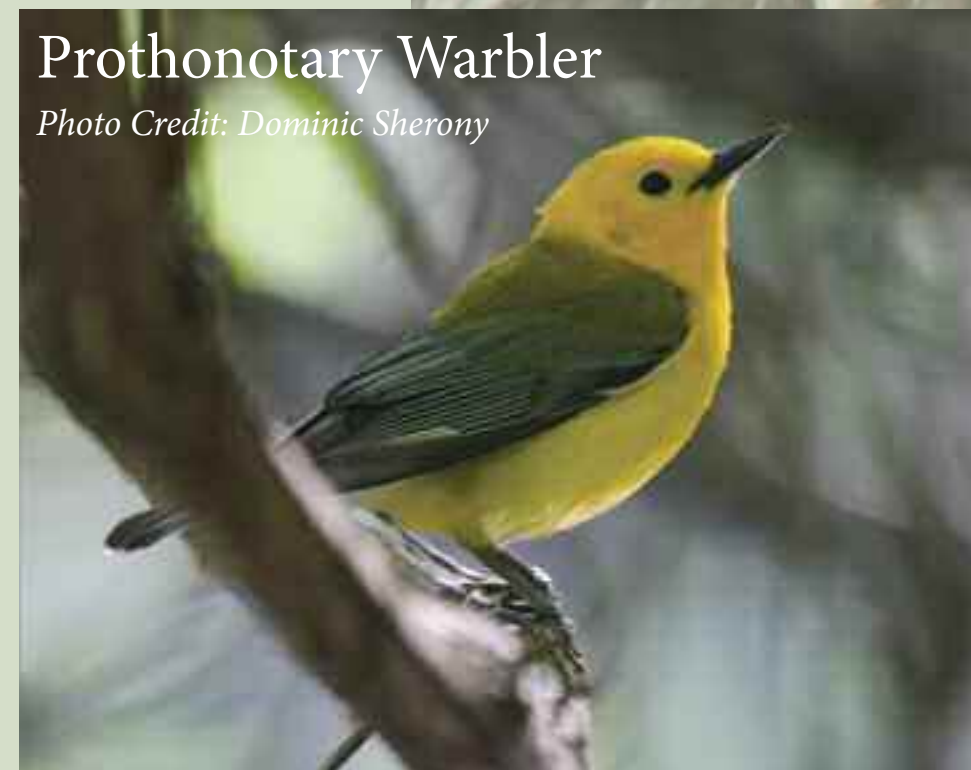


Wetlands at Work

Wetlands provide many benefits to humans and our environment. They act as natural flood control and are water purifiers, filtering out pollutants and sediments. They are spawning ground for fish, protective habitat for migratory waterfowl, quiet refuges for human-shy mammals, and home to a wide variety of reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.

Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas. The Alcovy River at East End is considered a forested swamp, often inundated with floodwater from nearby rivers and streams. The forested swamp is critical to the survival of wetland-dependent species like Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*), River Otters (*Lutra canadensis*), Marbled Salamanders (*Ambystoma opacum*) and Prothonotary Warblers (*Protonotaria citrea*). Common forested swamp trees found at East End include the Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), Overcup Oak (*Quercus lyrata*) and the Tupelo Gum (*Nyssa aquatica*).



Prothonotary Warbler
Photo Credit: Dominic Sherony



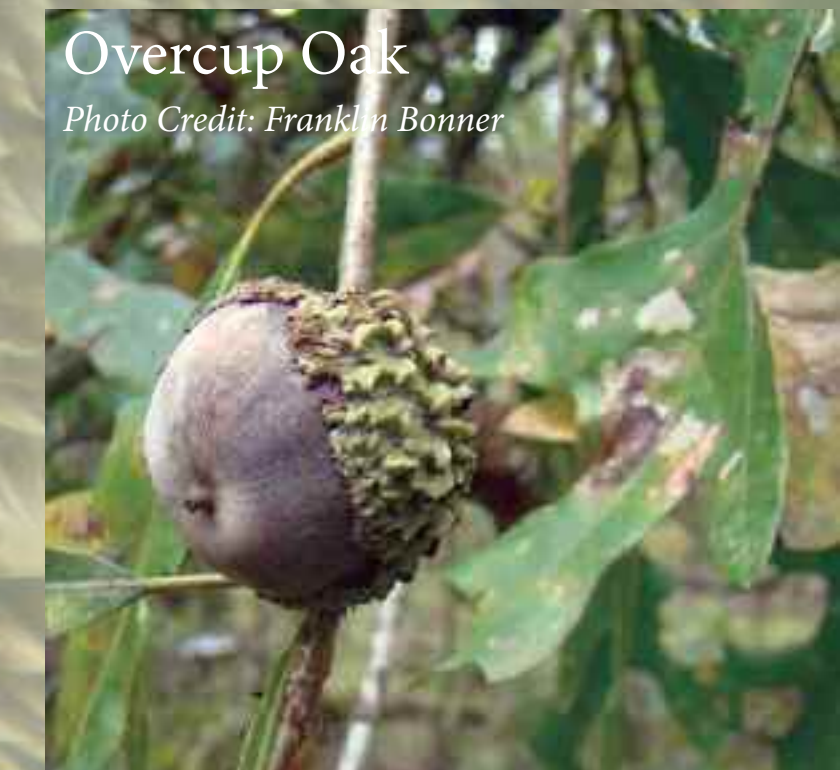
Marbled Salamander
Photo Credit: John White



Red Maple



Wood Duck
Photo Credit: Hank Ohme



Overcup Oak
Photo Credit: Franklin Bonner



River Otter
Photo Credit: Dmitry Azovtsev