

WETLANDS

to Nature's Nursery

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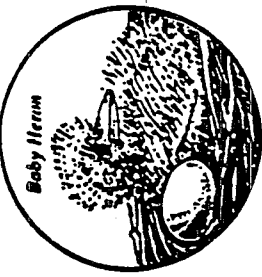
Baby Muskrats



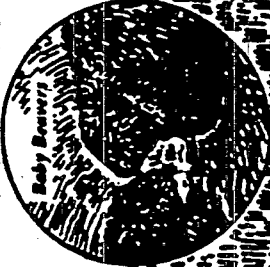
Baby Alligator



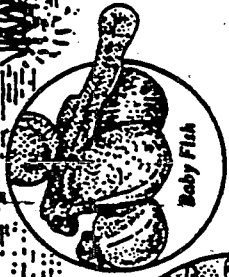
Baby Turtles



Baby Heron



Baby Beaver



Baby Fish



Baby Frog

Toadlets



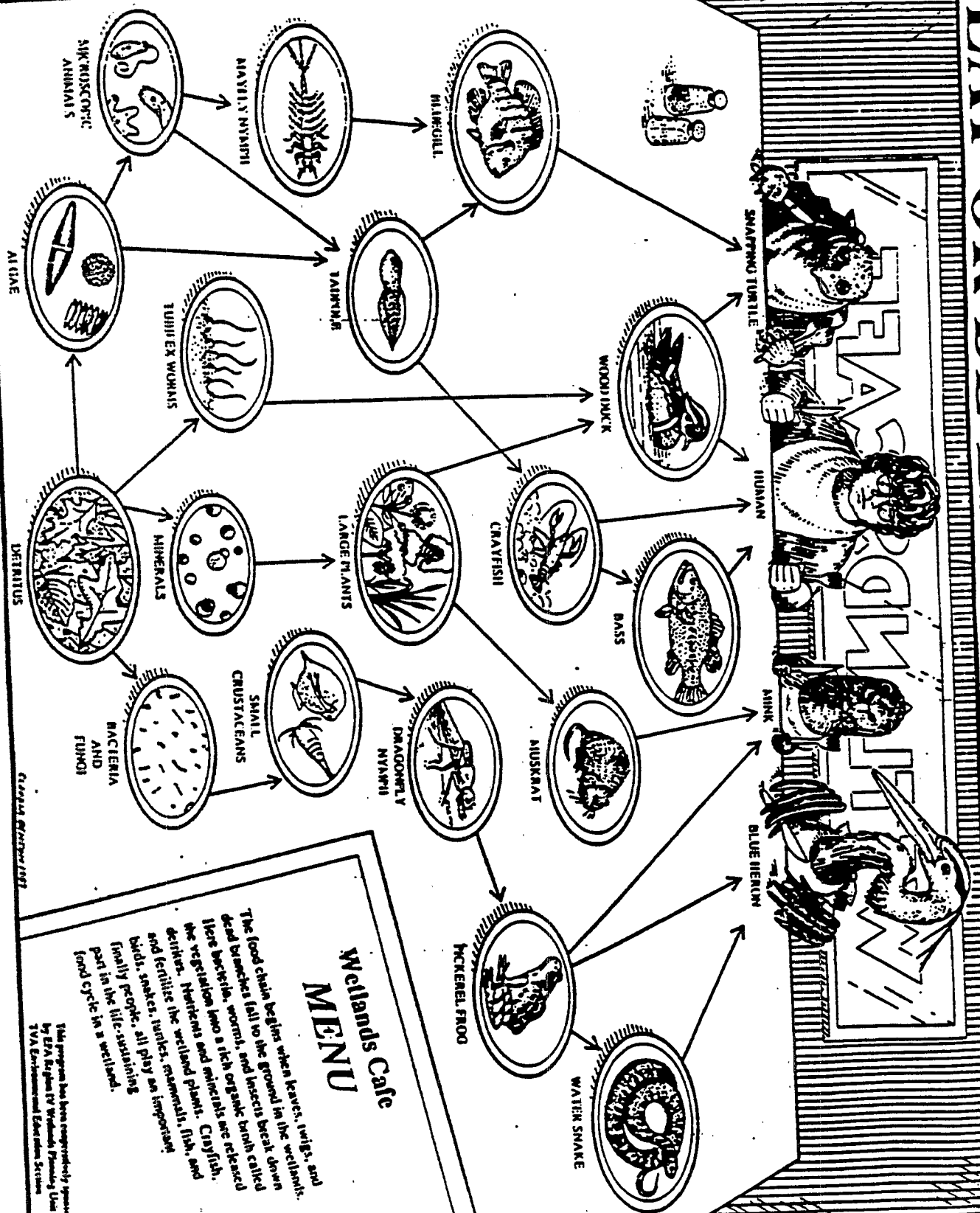
Baby Ducks



Newtlets

Wetlands are nature's nurseries for young birds, mammals, fish, frogs, turtles, snakes, crayfish and aquatic insects. Thick plant cover and shallow water makes them a good place to hide and the rich food supply gets babies off to a good start.

EAT OR BE EATEN at the Wetlands Cafe

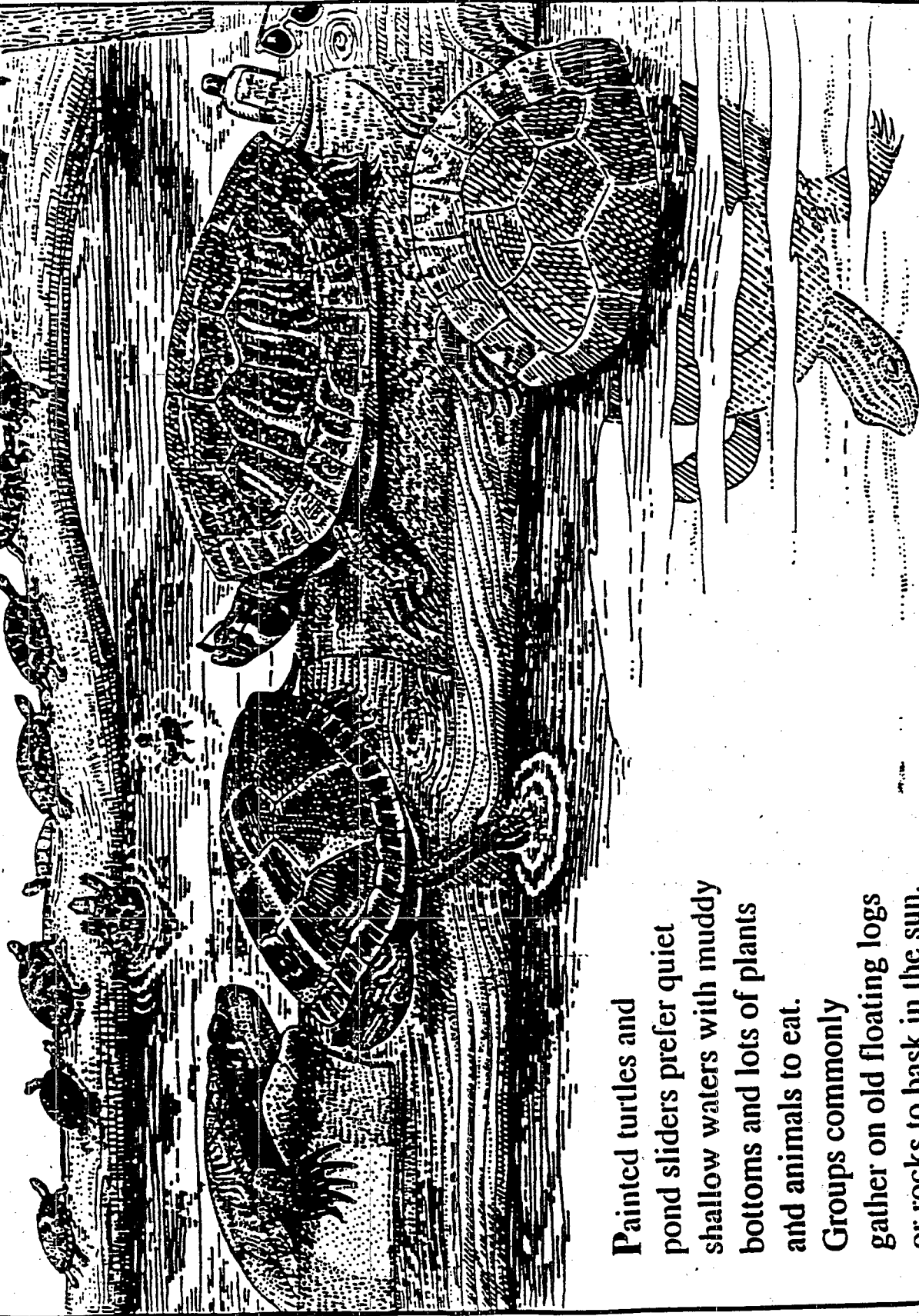


Wetlands Cafe MENU

The food chain begins when leaves, twigs, and dead branches fall to the ground in the wetlands. Here bacteria, worms, and insects break them down. The vegetation uses a rich organic soil called detritus. Wetlands and minerals are released and fertilize the wetland plants. Fish, and birds, snakes, turtles, mammals, and finally people, all play an important part in the life-sustaining food cycle in a wetland.

This program has been expertly prepared by EPA Region IV Wetlands Planning, Use and FEA Environmental Education Section

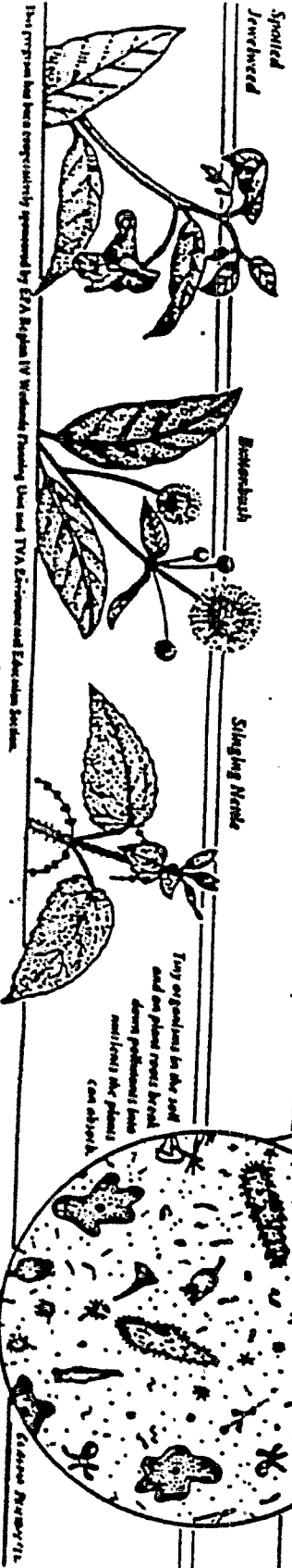
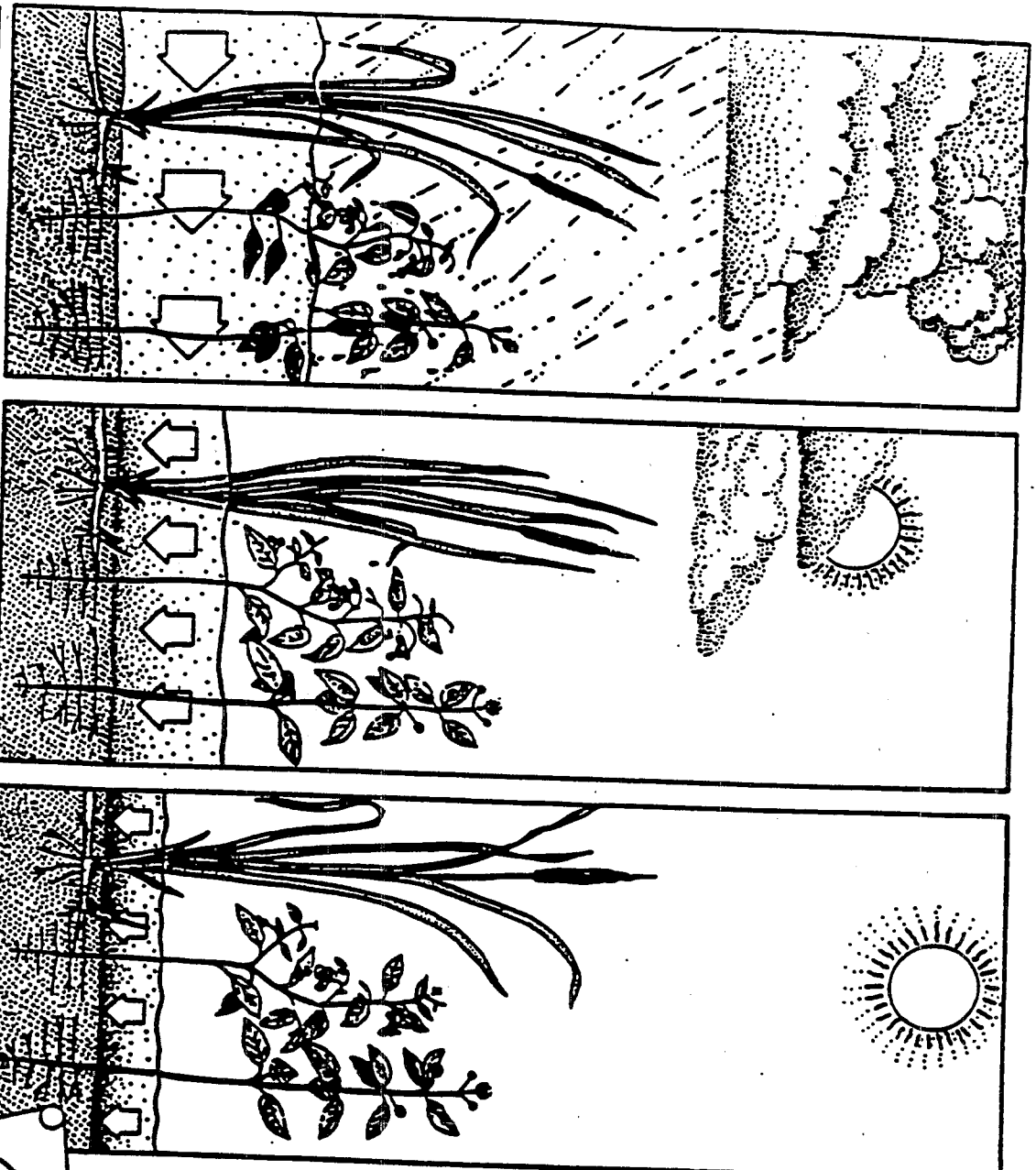
TURTLE BEACH



Painted turtles and pond sliders prefer quiet shallow waters with muddy bottoms and lots of plants and animals to eat. Groups commonly gather on old floating logs or rocks to bask in the sun.

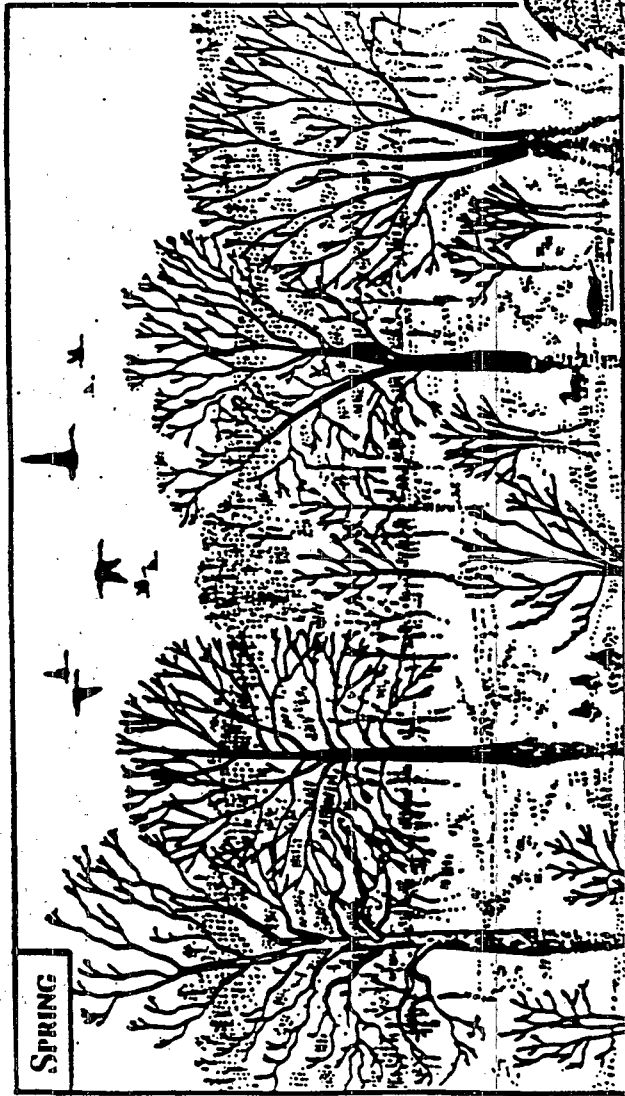
THE DIRT STOPS HERE

Wetland plants slow incoming stormwaters causing sediment suspended in the water to settle out among the plant stems. Organisms living on the stems and roots of the plants absorb and break down pollutants.



IT'S SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

SPRING



SUMMER



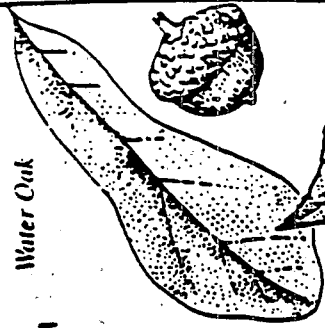
Trees such as the Sycamore, Black Willow, Water and Overcup Oaks, River Birch and Hackberry have adapted to the rising and falling water levels in the swamp.

River Birch

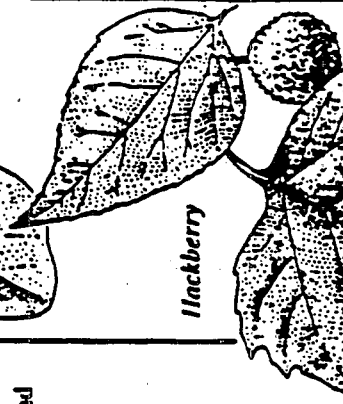
They survive by remaining dormant during floods in early spring and growing when soils dry out in late spring and summer.

This program has been cooperatively sponsored by EPA Region IV, Wetlands Planning Unit and TVA Environmental Education Service.

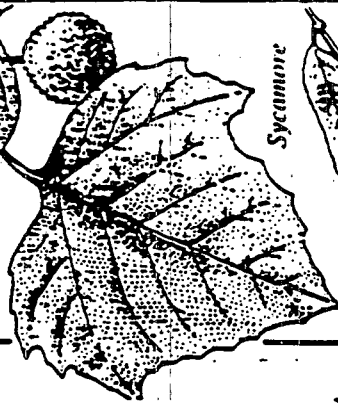
Water Oak



Hackberry



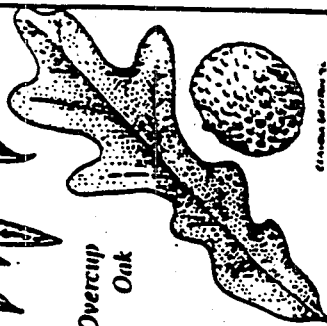
Sycamore



Black Willow



Overcup Oak



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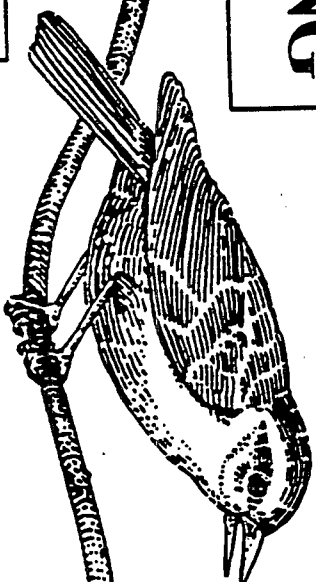
Easy LISTENING

AM & PM

Songbirds brighten the dark swamp forest with their beautiful songs, especially the golden Prothonotary Warbler. This water-loving bird sings out "sweet, sweet, sweet." Daily concert times: 6-9 am and 4-7 pm.

וְהָאֵלֹהִים יִשְׁמְעוּן

where-where-a-hip-jump-will



Swainson's Warbler

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he-he-he-he-he

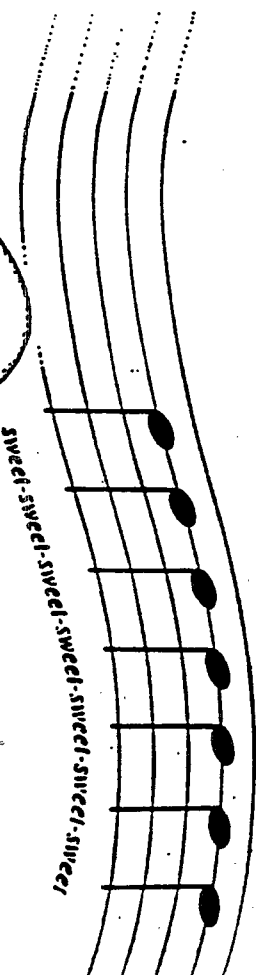


Marsh Wren

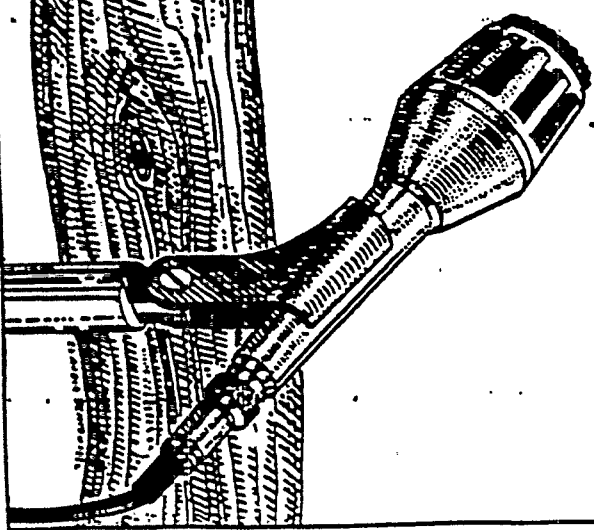
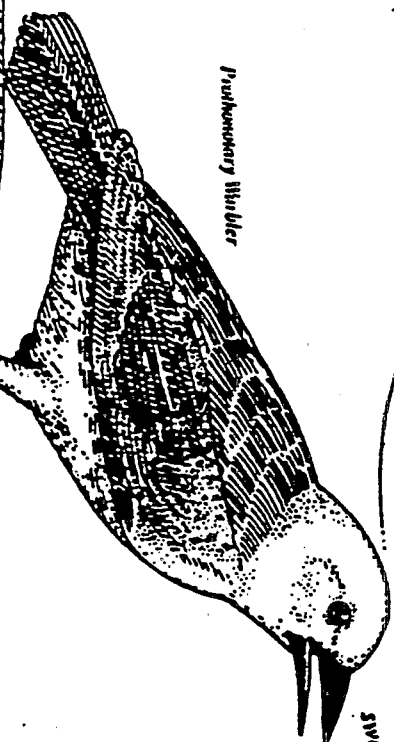
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with-birds-with-birds-with-birds

Common Yellowthroat

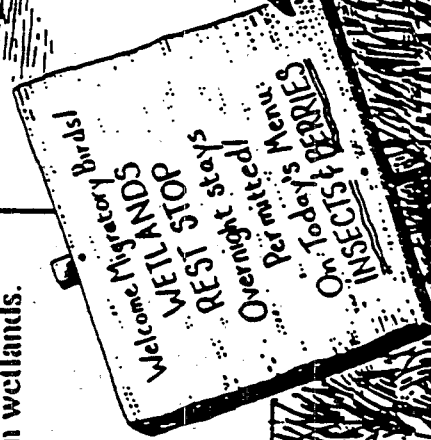
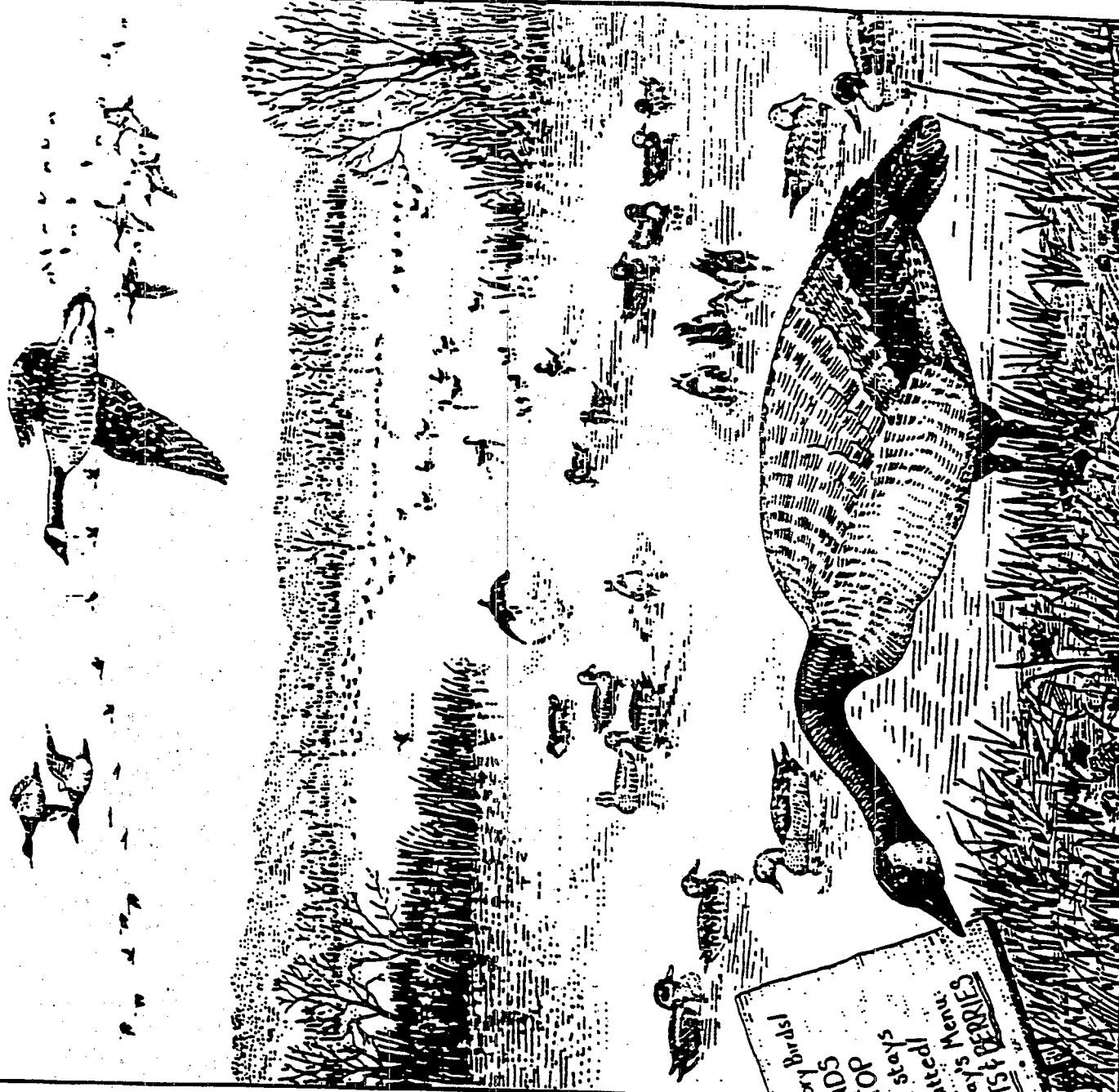


Prothonotary Warbler



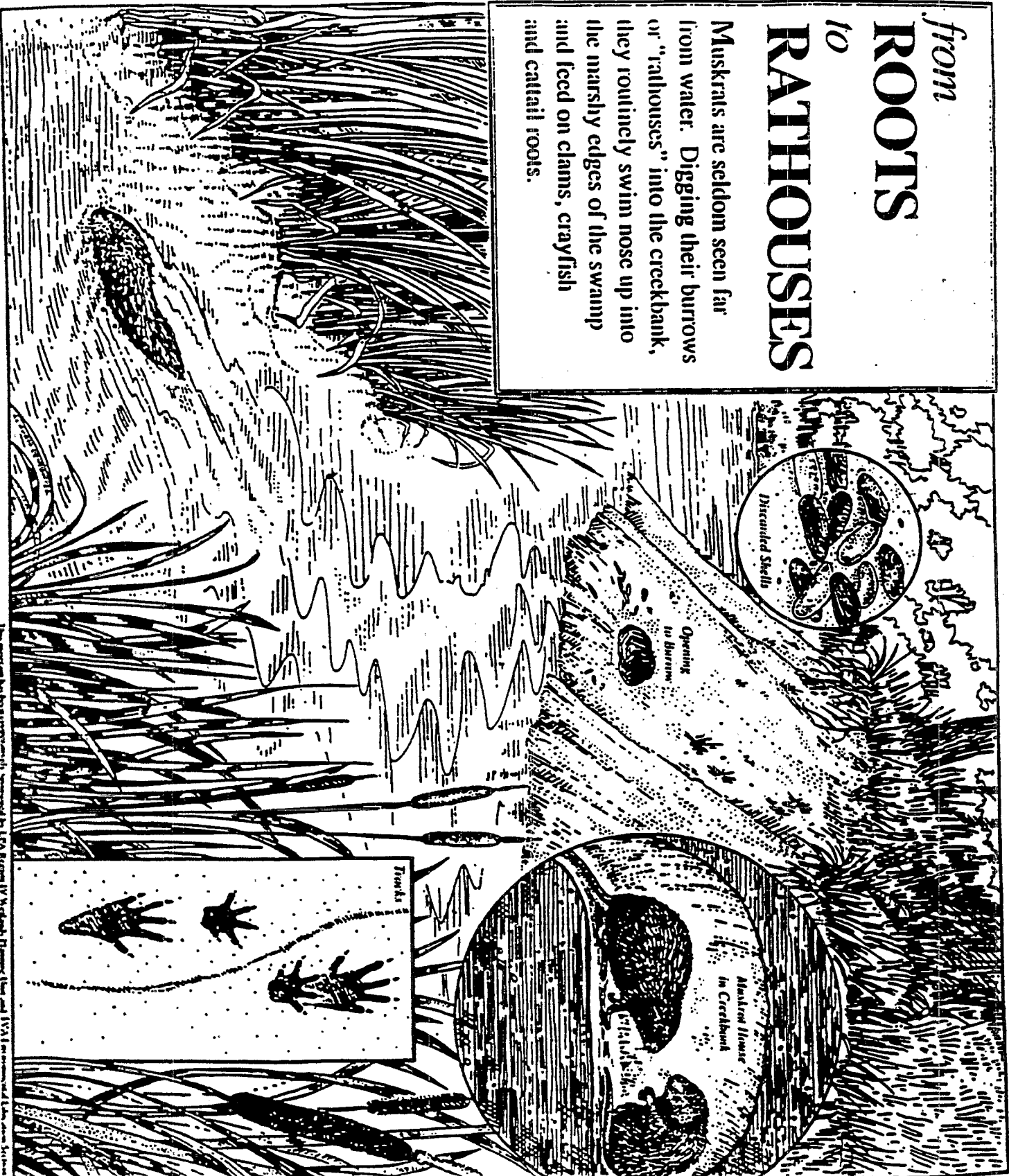
Dine & Dash

Migratory birds and waterfowl routinely stop at wetland sites on route to their summer and winter homes. Here they refuel on a rich supply of insects and berries before continuing their journeys. Many also nest and winter in wetlands.

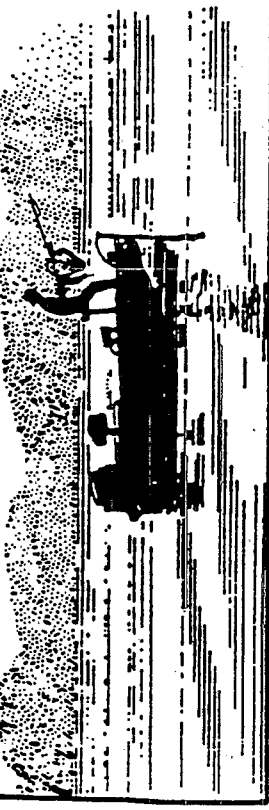


from ROOTS to RATHOUSES

Muskrats are seldom seen far from water. Digging their burrows or "rathouses" into the creekbank, they routinely swim nose up into the marshy edges of the swamp and feed on clams, crayfish and cattail roots.

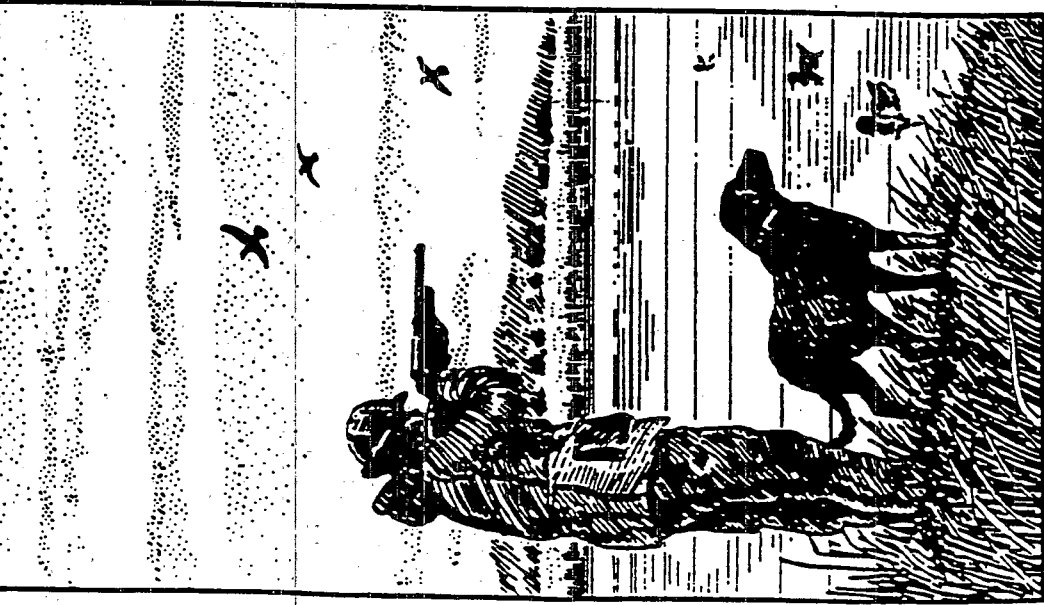


Fishing

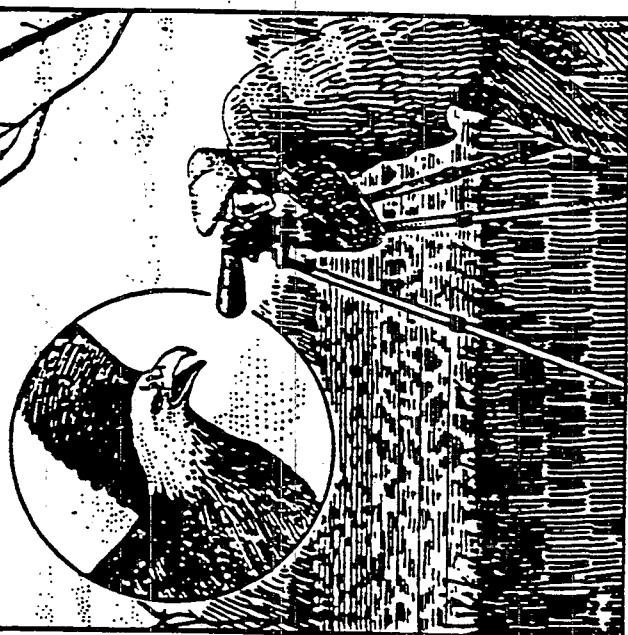


HELP SAVE OUR WETLANDS

Hunting



Birdwatching



The intermingling of sun, land, water, and plants creates this rich and unique wetland habitat. But the single most important influence on wetlands is *people*. Over 115 million acres of wetlands have been drained for agriculture, timber production, mosquito control, and urban development. You can help save the remaining wetlands by supporting wetland conservation efforts and by buying duck stamps at your local post office.

Canning



This program has been cooperatively sponsored by EPA Region IV Wetlands Planning, Clearing and Filling Act and TVA Environmental Education Act.

