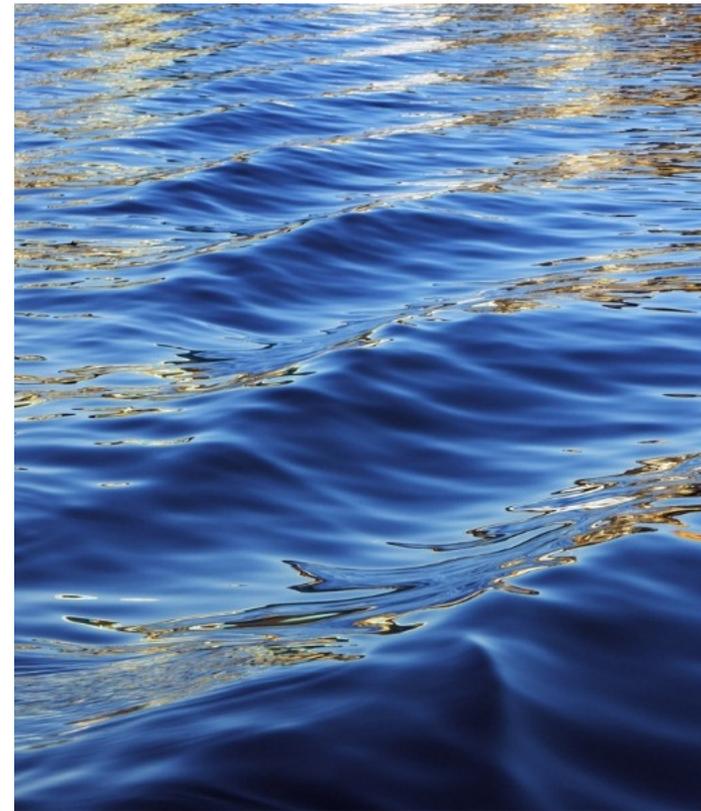


The Importance of Oak for Wildlife

David Runkle
Vinton SWCD



Let us Focus on the Game Species First

- Deer
- Turkey
- Wood Duck
- Grouse
- Coyote
- Fox
- Raccoon
- Squirrel
- Feral Hog



Food

- Both Red Oak and White Oak Acorns
- White Oak acorns in the fall- lower tannin levels and they sprout when they hit the ground.
- Red Oak acorns in late winter- after the tannins have leached out from winter rain and snow.
- Browse- not preferred but edible



Cover

- Young Oak stands are very dense and provide safety for game
- Young Oak stands provide nesting cover and an abundance of protein for turkey poults
- Oak trees provide nesting and denning sites
- CODIT- long lasting den trees



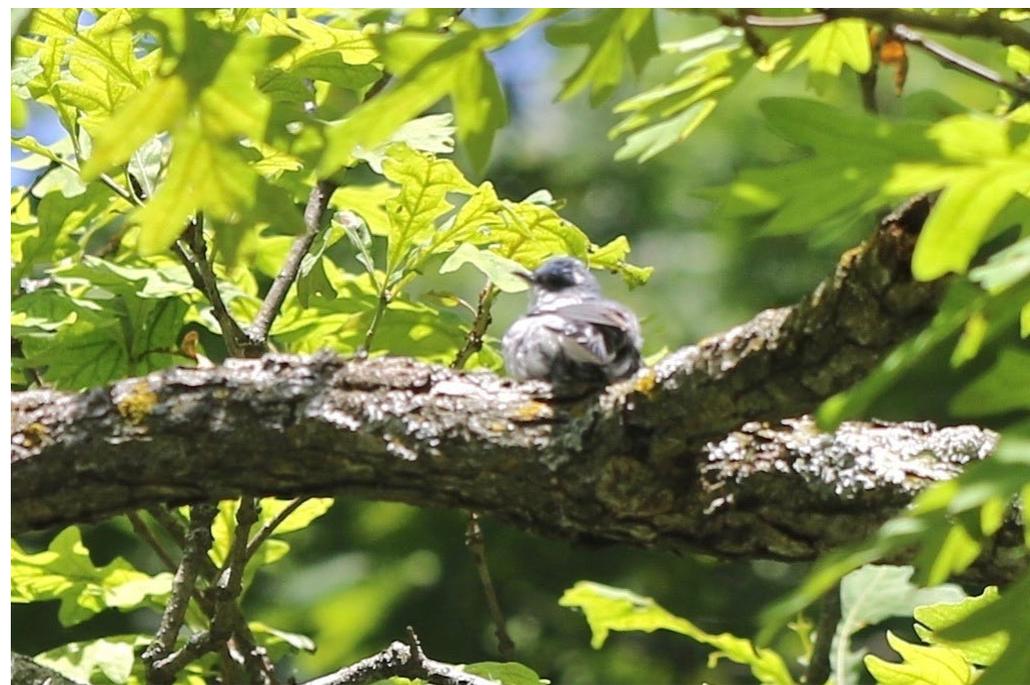
Non game species that benefit

- One single Oak tree can support more than 280 species of insects!
- Food web!



Birds

- Cerulean Warbler
- Great Horned Owl
- Baltimore Oriole
- Downy woodpecker
- Scarlet Tanager
- Ruby-Throated Hummingbird
- Rose-Breasted Grosbeak
- Northern Flicker
- Red-Bellied Woodpecker



Non game mammals

Predators:

Bear, Bobcat



Prey:

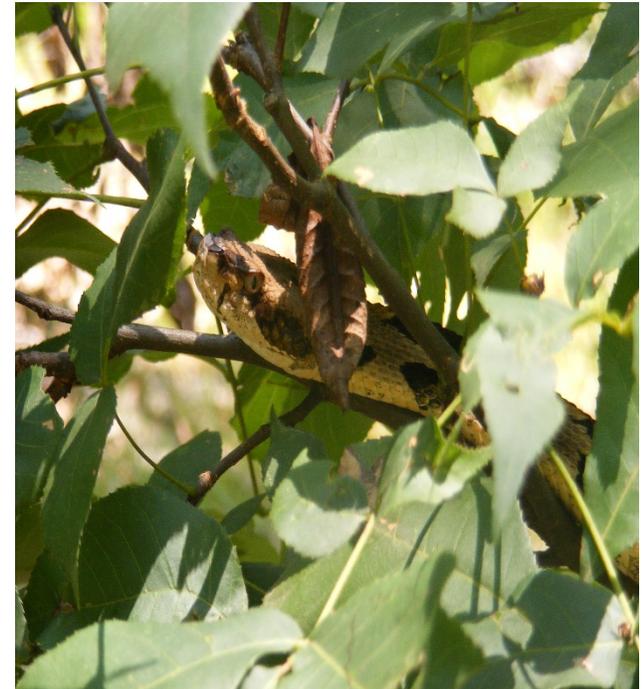
Mice

Flying squirrels



Reptiles?

- Yes, even reptiles and amphibians benefit from Oak!





Thank you!

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