Wetlands are important areas that take on many forms, such as marshes, swamps, sloughs, and oxbows. These areas are vital to the plants and animals that live in these wet environments. Without them there would be increased flooding and erosion, poor water quality, and a decrease in the number of plant and animal species.
Bottomland hardwood forests are highly adaptable areas rich in a variety of plants and animals. Birds, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals are some of the types of animals found living in the forests. Bottomland hardwood forests help maintain water quality, control soil erosion, prevent flood damage, and refill ground water.