



# Industrial Cooperation



Since the creation of the Tennessee Valley Authority, industrial companies have been attracted to Northern Alabama for a number of reasons including affordable electricity. Over the years a large portion of the shoreline of Wheeler Reservoir has been purchased by these industries. An abundant water supply and access to barge transport have provided even more incentives as these industries continue to grow.

In an attempt to give back to the valley they now occupy, many industrial giants are cooperating with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to employ new conservation strategies to manage current land holdings for wildlife.

One of these giants, 3M, has been at the forefront of this initiative with over 200 acres of grassland now being managed for wildlife. Through this proactive initiative, 3M has replaced some fescue grass with native warm-season grasses that support a richer and more diverse assemblage of wildlife.

## The Threat of Habitat Loss

Habitat loss is the biggest threat to wildlife in America. Increasing urbanization replaces once wild areas with new developments and emphasizes the need to manage the

remaining wild lands. With the cooperation of large land owners, including state and federal governments and industry leaders, remaining habitat can be managed for the benefit of wildlife and wildlife watchers alike!



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher/Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Greg W. Lasley



## An Environmental Leader

3M is a diversified technology company with a worldwide presence in the following markets: consumer and office; display and graphics; electro and communications; health care; industrial; safety, security, and protection services; and transportation. 3M is committed to sustainable development through environmental protection, social responsibility, and economic progress. These values are due in large part to the dedication, skill, and effort of 3M employees. As part of this project, 3M is directly contributing to the restoration of lands by preserving habitat and actively managing for wildlife on some of their extensive landholdings around Wheeler Reservoir and on the Tennessee River.



Wildlife habitat along the Tennessee River/ADCNR, Keith Hudson

## Tennessee River Corridor

The pioneering alliance between 3M and ADCNR is just the tip of the iceberg for a cooperative effort that could stretch for miles along the Tennessee River. Working at a landscape level, private industry along with state and federal governments is working to develop a conservation corridor that will provide valuable habitat to innumerable plant and animal communities.