

# Ivory-billed Woodpecker

*Campephilus principalis*



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Lab of Ornithology  
Courtesy David Allen

## Terms of Reference for the Recovery Planning and Implementation Team



### Purposes of the Recovery Team

The purposes of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker Recovery Team are:

1. Prepare a comprehensive recovery plan for the species.
2. Advise agencies, stakeholders and the general public on conservation actions while the plan is developed and after it is completed.
3. Assist, as appropriate, with implementation of recovery actions following plan completion.
3. Develop a recovery outline to guide and coordinate team activities until a recovery plan is finalized.

### Role of the Recovery Team

Members of a recovery team serve at the discretion of the Service's Regional Director, who has the lead responsibility for recovering a listed species. Although the role of recovery team members is strictly advisory in nature, the team's recommendations guide (but do not mandate) the Service, other Federal agencies, state governments, and other parties in recovery planning and recovery activities.

Participation on the recovery team requires members to regularly attend meetings, provide particular expertise to the process (such as data on the species' status, distribution, habitat, and potential habitat), and write portions of the recovery plan as appropriate. We will make a concerted effort to conduct team business through conference calls, electronic and conventional mail, and the internet whenever possible to reduce the need for travel.

An adaptive approach will be taken in the preparation and implementation of the recovery plan. Since so little is known about the distribution status and ecology of the species, every attempt will be made to adapt the recovery effort as knowledge is gained.

### Geographic Scope of the Plan

The Ivory-billed Woodpecker once nested throughout the Southeastern United States and Cuba. In the United States the bird ranged from the coastal plain of North and South Carolina, Georgia, all of Florida, large portions of Alabama, Mississippi, and Arkansas, all of the state of Louisiana, eastern Texas, west Tennessee and small portions of Illinois, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Missouri. By the late 1800s, the range had been reduced and it is not believed that birds still occurred in Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois, or Kentucky.

Scope of the recovery effort will include the entire historic range of the species in the United States, however the focus of activities will be in Arkansas. A secondary focus will be placed on east Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina depending on reported sightings and the outcome of habitat modelling efforts.

It should be noted that the Ivory-billed Woodpecker is comprised of two subspecies, *Campephilus principalis principalis* of the southeastern United States and *Campephilus p. bairdii* of Cuba. No distinction was made in the listing of this species with regard to sub-specific populations. This plan is directed at recovery of the United States population but it is recognized that some level of coordination with activities in Cuba would be desirable and beneficial. Such coordination with conservation efforts in Cuba will be accomplished through the Executive Committee.

### Overview of Recovery Team Composition and Structure (see attached chart)

The team will be comprised of organizations and individuals with expertise and resources which can be devoted to the conservation of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

The Team will be led by the Executive Committee which will provide general direction and oversight for the recovery effort. Two standing Working Groups, Biology and Habitat Management and Conservation, along with the Corridor of Hope Conservation Team will support the recovery planning effort. A Steering Committee led by the Recovery Team Leader will coordinate Working Group activities and provide liaison between the Executive Committee, the Corridor of Hope Conservation Team and the Working Groups. Team membership will be dynamic with modifications made as required by issues and experiences.

#### Executive Committee:

Sam D. Hamilton, Chair  
Regional Director, Southeast Region,  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

John Bridgeland  
Civic Enterprises

Dr. Greg Butcher  
National Audubon Society

Brig. General Robert Crear  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Nancy DeLamar  
The Nature Conservancy

Kirk Dupps  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Dr. John Fitzpatrick  
Cornell University  
Laboratory of Ornithology

Scott Henderson  
Southeastern Association of Fish and  
Wildlife Agencies and Arkansas Game  
and Fish Commission

Robert Nixon  
Earth Conservation Corps

Dr. Peter Roussopoulos  
USDA, Forest Service

Dr. James Tate  
Science Advisor to the  
Secretary of the Interior

Larry Wiseman  
American Forest Foundation

**Recovery Team Steering Committee:**

Jon Andrew, Team Leader  
USFWS

Dr. Robert Cooper  
University of Georgia

Tom Foti  
Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

David Goad  
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Kenny Ribbeck  
Louisiana Department of  
Wildlife and Fisheries

Dr. Ken Rosenberg  
Cornell University  
Laboratory of Ornithology

**Recovery Team:**

*Corridor of Hope Conservation Team*  
David Goad, Co-Chair  
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Terry Singleterry, Co-Chair  
Brinkley, Arkansas

U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln

U.S. Senator Mark Pryor

U.S. Representative Marion Berry

U.S. Representative Mike Ross

U.S. Representative Vic Snyder

U.S. Representative John Boozman

Mayor Billy Clay  
Brinkley, Arkansas

Mayor Harry M. Richenback  
Stuttgart, Arkansas

Mayor Robert Patrick  
St. Charles, Arkansas

Mayor Cleodis Smith  
Cotton Plant, Arkansas

Mayor Lula Tyler  
Holly Grove, Arkansas

Mayor Don Boshears  
Clarendon, Arkansas

Woodruff County Judge Burl Simmons

Prairie County Judge Butch Calhoun

Jackson County Judge Jerry Carlew

Monroe County Judge Larry Morris

Senator Jim Luker  
Arkansas State Legislature

John Berry  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Freddie Black  
Simmons Bank, Lake Village, Arkansas

Maryknell Branch  
Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

David Carruth  
Arkansas Wildlife Federation

Richard Davies  
Director, Arkansas Parks and Tourism

Larry Mallard  
Refuge Manager, White River NWR  
USFWS

Marion McCollum  
Mack's Prairie Wings

Allan Mueller  
Ecological Services Field Supervisor  
Conway, Arkansas, USFWS

Kelly Robbins  
Arkansas Forestry Association

Bobby Robinson  
Farmer/banker, Cotton Plant, Arkansas

Harvey Jo Sanner  
Des Arc, Arkansas

John Shannon  
Arkansas Forestry Commission

Karen Smith  
Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Ken Smith  
Audubon Arkansas

Bill Thompson  
Brinkley, Arkansas

Butch Turner  
Tichner, Arkansas

Dennis Widner  
Refuge Manager, Cache River NWR  
USFWS

*Biology Working Group*  
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Louisiana

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Arkansas State University

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Migratory Birds, Atlanta, Georgia  
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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Deborah Fuller  
Ecological Services Field Office  
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The Nature Conservancy

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Cliff Shackelford  
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Research Center, Vicksburg, Mississippi

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Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Randy Wilson  
Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture  
Vicksburg, Mississippi, USFWS

Dr. Mark Woodrey  
Mississippi State University

*Habitat Management and  
Conservation Working Group*  
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Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Kenny Ribbeck, Co-chair  
Louisiana Department of  
Wildlife and Fisheries

Charles Baxter  
Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture  
USFWS

Martin Blaney  
Arkansas Game and Fish Department

Robert Bonnie  
Environmental Defense

Dr. George Bukenhofer  
USDA Forest Service

Jimmy Bullock  
International Paper Company

Mike Carloss  
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James Cummins  
Mississippi River Trust

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Greenwood Plantation

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Gaylord Memorial Laboratory  
University of Missouri

Paul Frey  
State Forester, Louisiana

Dr. John Hodges  
Mississippi State University

Chuck Hunter  
Regional Biologist, National Wildlife  
Refuge System, USFWS

Eric Johnson  
Cache River NWR, USFWS

Jim Neal  
Nacogdoches, Texas, USFWS

Jim Baker  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Dr. David Pashley  
American Bird Conservancy

Mike Phillips  
Turner Endangered Species Fund

Bruce Reid  
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Louisiana Forestry Association

Russ Watson  
Ecological Services Field Supervisor  
Lafayette, Louisiana, USFWS

Dr. Bently Wigley  
National Council of Air and Stream  
Improvement (NCASI)

Dr. Scott Yaich  
Ducks Unlimited

Doug Zollner  
The Nature Conservancy of Arkansas

**Roles and Responsibilities of  
Recovery Team Components**

*Executive Committee*

Members of the Executive Committee provide overall guidance and direction to the Recovery Team and the recovery effort and assist in resolving issues raised during plan development and review. Members may assist in identifying academic or other sources of information and technological support. Members are responsible for elevating awareness of the species and the ecosystem upon which it depends and for establishing and maintaining partnerships that will facilitate conservation and implementation of plan recovery actions as appropriate. Members of the Executive Committee are encouraged to be creative in developing recovery actions by seeking new or non-traditional partners or approaches.

*Steering Committee*

(Composed of Recovery Team Leader and co-chairs of Working Groups, including Corridor of Hope Conservation Team)

The Steering Committee develops a framework for the recovery plan. The Committee provides guidance, coordination, and oversight to the Working Groups in plan preparation and implementation of recovery actions. The Steering Committee will help define roles and tasks of the Work Groups, assist in identifying priority recovery actions as appropriate, and resolve conflicts or overlap in assignments. Topics of general concern related to recovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker may also be raised to the Steering Committee for their review, comment and recommended action to the Executive Committee.

In general, the Steering Committee will be responsible for the following:

1. fostering communication and cooperation among recovery team members and stakeholders
2. communicating progress and issues for resolution to the Executive Committee
3. supporting development and providing review and comment on the recovery plan,
4. monitoring progress of the recovery effort and provide recommendations as needed

5. identifying priority work to be accomplished as part of the recovery effort
6. coordinating efforts of various members to avoid conflict or duplication of effort
7. communicating progress to others via periodic e-mails, postings on websites, etc.
8. coordinating and planning for needed funds

*FWS Recovery Team Leader*

The Recovery Team Leader will attend all Executive and Steering Committee meetings. The Team Leader will act as a coordination point between the Steering Committee and the Executive Committee. He will facilitate functioning of the Working Groups by providing logistical support, overseeing the drafting and review of the Recovery Plan by Working Groups, stepping down guidance from the Executive Committee, and monitoring the progress of assigned tasks. The Team Leader will develop a schedule of tasks with timelines and report biweekly on status of work. He will monitor the work of the recovery effort to assure that activities are in accord with policy and regulations. The Team Leader will actively coordinate recovery planning and related activities with the Corridor of Hope Conservation Team.

*Corridor of Hope Conservation Team*

Through public and private partnerships, the Corridor of Hope Conservation Team will develop and implement plans for the conservation of lands in the Mississippi Delta of Arkansas to protect habitat for the species that live there and specifically assist in conservation on behalf of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Future work could include outreach into the other states within the historical range of the woodpecker.

The Team will provide input to the recovery effort in terms of identifying recovery actions, interaction with the local communities, providing assistance in resolving issues which are raised during plan preparation and implementation, and will actively seek out collaborative solutions which will aid the recovery effort.

Objectives of the Corridor of Hope Conservation Team are as follows:

1. Develop partnerships around a shared vision
2. Convene civic leaders, decision makers and elected officials
3. In close coordination with the Biology and Habitat Management Working Groups, pursue conservation of lands through current programs such as Land and Water Conservation Funding, Wetlands Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Migratory Bird Funding, Joint Venture/North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) funding, private fund raising, and other such approaches
4. Provide leadership and visibility for the Corridor of Hope, inspire hope for the future of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, and for other species

Members serving on the Corridor of Hope Conservation Team will serve for not more than five years, depending on the timeline and scope of the plans.

*Working Group Chairs*

Chairs report to the Recovery Team leader and transmit Steering Committee guidance to the team members. Each team will also be responsible for drafting specific portions of the recovery plan and for identifying and developing recovery actions within their area of focus.

*Biology Working Group*

The focus of this group is on natural history investigations, identification of new technologies, population viability, survey effort strategies and techniques, and identification of highest priority research to be accomplished as part of the recovery effort. The group will be responsible for preparing research sections of the recovery plan including a matrix of ranked research projects, a species description, life history and biology sections of the recovery plan. This group will also propose recovery standards or criteria from the population perspective and identify what would constitute a secure population.

*Habitat Management and Conservation Working Group*

This group will describe habitat currently used and develop recommendations on habitat

requirements. The group will inventory habitat types and the amount and location of potential habitat and develop decision support models which will guide forest management and conservation actions, including land protection. The group will assess impacts of forest management and provide recommendations on habitat management which best supports the recovery of the species in the context of the overall ecosystem. This group will be responsible for preparing the habitat description, habitats needs, and habitat management sections of recovery plan. The team will provide advice and recommendations on habitat management, particularly forest management in a form usable by public land managers and private landowners. This group may also propose a recovery standard or criteria relative to the amount, location and type of habitat necessary to sustain a recovered population.

*Schedule of Activity-Milestones*

- May 24, 2005  
Appoint Recovery Team Executive Committee
- May 24, 2005  
Appoint Recovery Team/Working Groups
- June 15, 2005  
Appoint Corridor of Hope Conservation Team
- June 21-22, 2005  
Convene Steering Committee, Working Group Chairs and Corridor of Hope Conservation Team
- August 2005  
Convene entire Recovery Team Define role of Working Group and ID Tasks
- October 3, 2005  
Complete recovery outline
- April 2006  
First draft of Recovery Plan sections from Working Groups
- September 30, 2006  
Technical agency draft of Recovery Plan-public review
- January 2007  
Public comment period (60 days)
- March 2007  
Address comments/finalize Plan
- June 2007  
Approve and issue final Recovery Plan