

# Ivory-billed Woodpecker

*Recovery starts here...*

Monday, June 6, 2005

## W E E K L Y U P D A T E

### The Recovery Team

The Recovery Team's executive committee as well as chairs of the working groups will meet for the first time June 20 – 22 in Brinkley, Arkansas. Additional meetings for the working groups are being set for July.

*"This Recovery Team brings together some of the best minds in ecology, conservation biology, forestry, and ornithology, from a wide spectrum of organizations who can contribute knowledge and resources toward this magnificent bird's comeback," said Sam Hamilton, the Service's Southeast Regional Director. "We likely won't get a second chance to do this critical job, and we need to move effectively and quickly."*

### Working With Partners

The Service's Arkansas Field Office has set a meeting for June 13 with resource agencies in the state and other conservation organizations. The meeting will provide information on incentive-based programs administered by the Service. In addition, our partners will outline programs that are part of the Farm Bill including the Wetlands Reserve Program and the Conservation Reserve Program that can protect and improve habitat for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker (IBW) and other species.

The meeting is scheduled for 10 am and will be hosted by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Participants will look for opportunities to maximize the impact of these programs and minimize overlap.

Debbie Fuller met with researchers from the USGS National Wetlands Research center to discuss IBW research needs. Debbie Fuller and Chuck Hunter participated in a conference call with researchers from the USGS National Wetlands Research center to discuss IBW research needs.

The National Wildlife Refuge System in the Southeast Region is working with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to prepare a proposal seeking funds to build a boardwalk and viewing tower at Cache River.

### Section 7 Consultations

The Service continues to review the Biological Assessment provided by the Corps of Engineers regarding the potential impacts to IBW associated with the Grand Prairie Area irrigation project. The Service is working with all haste to ensure a thorough review before determining whether or not we concur



photo: USFWS

with the Corps' determination that adverse effects to the IBW are unlikely. While the Corps awaits our reply, they have announced that they will continue limited project activity with minor land clearing outside of the riparian area.

In addition, staff members in the Service's Ecological Services, Migratory Birds, and Refuge programs also are working on the consultations related to the upcoming waterfowl hunting season.

Cache River National Wildlife Refuge Manager Dennis Widner is working on a public use management plan for the refuge that will guide a range of public uses such and hunting, fishing, and bird watching.

Beginning with the next issue, the *IBW Update* will move to a bi-weekly schedule. The next update will be issued June 20, 2005.

