

Ivory-billed Woodpecker

Recovery starts here...

Wednesday, July 6, 2005

B I - W E E K L Y U P D A T E

Recovery Team

The Ivory-billed Woodpecker Recovery Team's executive committee met for the first time June 21 – 22 in Brinkley, Arkansas, to kick off the bird's recovery effort. After an overview of the rediscovery presented by Dr. John Fitzpatrick of Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology, the team quickly began the work of organizing itself for the writing of a recovery plan. A significant amount of time was devoted to identifying the first steps necessary in developing the plan. A draft recovery plan outline is expected to be ready for review later this month and finalized by early September.

The Steering Committee and the Habitat Conservation and Management and Biology Working Groups will meet in Little Rock, Arkansas, on August 2-3 to develop specific tasks related to recovery plan preparation.

Access

Cache River NWR Manager Dennis Widner is working to revise existing management plans governing public access at Cache River NWR. This work includes permit reviews for the upcoming fall survey season.

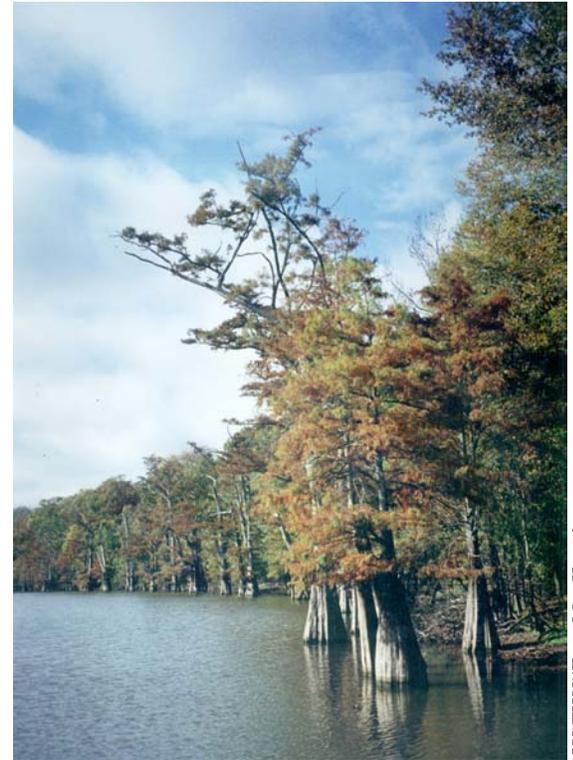
Section 7 Consultations

The Arkansas Field Office continues to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on informal Section 7 consultation related to potential impacts of the Grand Prairie project on the

Ivory-billed Woodpecker and its habitat. The Corps has agreed in principal with the Service's conditions for concurrence on the Corps "not likely to adversely effect" determination, including the need to survey habitat prior to doing the work and long term monitoring of project effects on the floodplain ecosystem. Protocol details will be discussed at an inter-agency meeting in late July. If these actions are implemented, the project would be not likely to adversely affect the woodpecker.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) area specifically focused on the needs of the IBWO continues to move forward. This week the interagency team defined the practices and boundaries for the CREP area, and the final guidance document is expected within the next two months. The following agencies and organizations make up the inter-agency team:

- Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- Arkansas Forestry Commission
- Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- Office of the Governor (Arkansas)
- The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service
- USDA's Farm Service Agency



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- USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- The Nature Conservancy, and
- Ducks Unlimited

The Service's Arkansas Field Office concurred with a "not likely to adversely effect" determination on short term management of the Dagmar and Black Swamp/Rex Hancock Wildlife Management Areas. During short term management, no timber will be cut and public use will be monitored to prevent excessive disturbance. To date, public use has not been a problem. Long-term timber and other management issues will be addressed later.

