

Ivory-billed Woodpecker Questions and Answers

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Background

The Ivory-billed Woodpecker, considered to be extinct by many birders, was rediscovered on Cache River National Wildlife Refuge. The discovery is the result of a collaborative effort by The Nature Conservancy of Arkansas, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, working together with Cornell Lab of Ornithology as the primary researcher, to determine if the Ivory-billed Woodpecker exists in the bottomland hardwood habitat of the White and Cache River basins. Since the discovery, searchers have explored a variety of locations in other states to find the Ivory-bill. They include Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

What laws protect the Ivory-billed Woodpecker?

The Ivory-billed Woodpecker is an endangered species and is afforded protection through the Endangered Species Act, the Refuge Administration Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act of 1997, and other Federal and state legislation.

Is the Service restricting access to the location where the bird was found?

Not anymore.

But in April 2005, concerned that a large number of people seeking to see the Ivory-bill would inundate the area and possibly scare the bird off, the Service restricted access to a 5,000 within the Bayou DeView drainage from Highway 38 southward to Dagmar WMA. Only researchers were allowed access into this area. (<http://www.fws.gov/cacheriver/index.html>)

In September 2005, that restriction was relaxed to allow daily permits to visit the Managed Access Area at Cache River NWR. The permits were distributed on a first come, first served basis.

<http://www.fws.gov/southeast/news/2005/r05-100.html>

In May 2006, refuge leadership opened the Managed Access Areas of Cache River NWR for public use without a permit. The refuge is still open to the public for all permitted public use activities, including hunting, fishing and boating.

How can I see the bird?

Good viewing areas are designated on the associated map (<http://www.fws.gov/cacheriver/index.html>). The Service is working with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, and The Nature Conservancy to provide additional viewing sites. If anyone sees an Ivory-bill, please take a good picture of it.

Think You Seen One?

[Cornell Lab of Ornithology](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/ivory/identifying), in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has established a website and an e-mail address to report sightings. To report a sighting, visit

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/ivory/identifying>

Can I use recorded, mechanical or otherwise artificial calls to draw in the bird?

No. Any means to artificially call the bird is strictly prohibited.