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Ivory-Billed Woodpecker Discovered on Cache River Refuge

Background

The ivory-billed woodpecker, considered to be extinct by many birders, has been 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 University as the primary researcher, to determine if the ivory-billed woodpecker existed in the bottomland hardwood habitat of the White and Cache River basins.

Questions and Answers: Access to Cache River National Wildlife Refuge

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?

Beginning immediately, the Service has established a managed access area of approximately 5,000 acres within the Bayou DeView drainage from Highway 38 southward to Dagmar WMA. Only researchers will be allowed access into this area. A map is provided on the refuge's website (<http://www.fws.gov/cacheriver/index.html>) and is available through the refuge office showing the designated managed access area.

Is access limited to the entire refuge?

No. Over 55,000 acres representing the majority of 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?

The Service expects an influx of birders from across the country and beyond to come to see the bird. The best opportunity for birders to add this bird to their life list is on the adjacent Dagmar Wildlife Management Area, managed by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. 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, which are expected to be available in early May.

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.