

Cache River National Wildlife Refuge
General Introduction

Welcome to Cache River National Wildlife Refuge. Established in 1986, Cache River NWR is one of over 540 national wildlife refuges administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The nearly 100 million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System is the only network of public lands in the United States set aside specifically for wildlife.

The primary objective of the refuge is to provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and preserve the remaining tracts of bottomland hardwood forest in the Cache River Basin. The refuge covers 61,000 acres of land along Cache River and Bayou DeView in Jackson, Woodruff, Prairie, and Monroe counties in eastern Arkansas. Hunting and fishing are permitted under carefully controlled conditions to maintain wildlife populations at levels compatible with the ecosystem. This permits the use of a valuable natural resource and provides recreational opportunities for the public.

More than 74% of Cache River NWR (45,121 acres) has been acquired using \$38.7 million from the sale of the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, or the "Duck Stamp." At Cache River Refuge, Duck Stamp funding conserved land for the Black Bear, Swallow-tailed Kite, Bald Eagle, and the once-thought extinct Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

Access and Vehicle Use

Cache River NWR is in the acquisition phase. Isolated land tracts are scattered throughout the acquisition zone and have been posted with refuge boundary signs and marked with yellow boundary paint. Access to many of these refuge lands is through private lands. All refuge visitors should obtain permission from adjacent landowners prior to crossing private land to reach refuge property.

Most refuge roads are open to the general public all year. Roads may be closed any time hazardous or poor road conditions exist. A locked gate or other barrier means the road is closed to all vehicle travel, but not to foot travel unless signed otherwise.

All vehicles must stay on established roads. ATVs may be used on established roads south of Highway 38. Horses are prohibited. Personal watercraft (jet-ski, etc), hover craft and airboats are prohibited also.

Permitted Activities

Public use is permitted throughout the year. Developed public use facilities are limited. A map with recommended public access points may be found on the reverse.

- Boating in rivers and bayous throughout the refuge is permitted.
- The public is welcome to observe and photograph wildlife.
- Fishing and hunting (with refuge permit) are allowed. A Public Use, Hunting, and Fishing Regulations brochure is available at the refuge office. A number of regulated hunts occur on the refuge each fall and winter (generally September to February).



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Prohibited Activities

- Camping. Public campgrounds are located nearby at DeValls Bluff on Highway 70.
- Building fires.
- Cutting or defacing trees.
- Littering.
- Searching for or removal of artifacts.
- Trapping.
- Spotlighting. Artificial lights may not be used to locate wildlife.

Firearms, archery equipment and crossbows are permitted only during refuge hunts.

The use of audio devices, electronic callers, recordings or similar artificial devices for simulating the call of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker or any other non-game bird is prohibited.

Waterfowl sanctuaries

Waterfowl sanctuaries are closed to all entrance and hunting from November 15 through the end of February. Obtain a *Public Use, Hunting and Fishing Regulations* brochure for season dates and a map showing the location of waterfowl sanctuaries.

Ivory-billed Woodpecker Managed Access Area

Contact the refuge headquarters or visit the refuge website to receive current public use information on the Ivory-billed Woodpecker Managed Access Area. See reverse for more information on the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.



USFWS/Karen Graves



USFWS/Bill Alexander



USFWS/Jerry Griggs



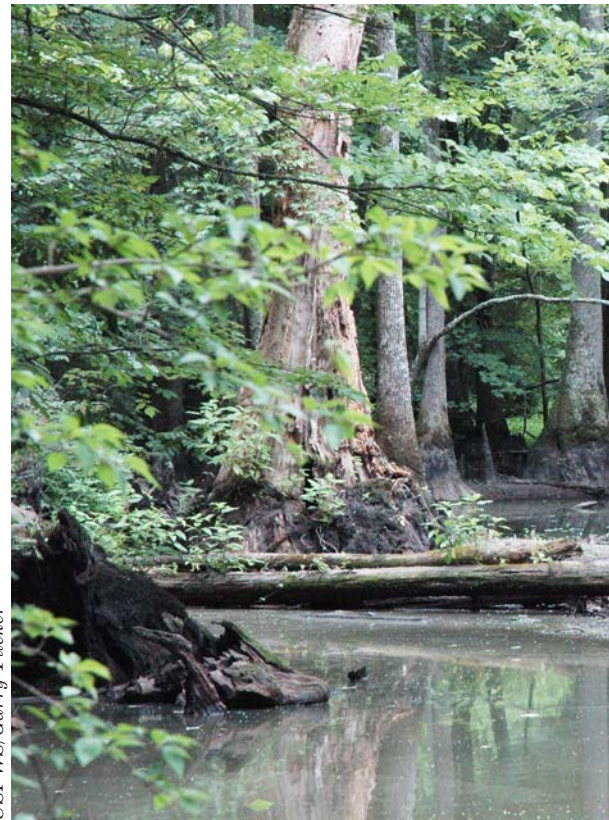
USFWS/Garry Tucker



USFWS/Ray Paterra



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USFWS/Eric Johnson

Ivory-billed Woodpecker Managed Access Area Information and Regulations

The Ivory-billed Woodpecker, the largest woodpecker species in the U.S. and Canada, was rediscovered at Cache River National Wildlife Refuge in February 2004. Prior to its rediscovery, its last confirmed sighting was in the 1940s at the Singer Tract near Tallulah, Louisiana on what is now the Tensas River NWR. Until the Cache River sightings, most ornithologists believed the bird to be extinct. With the rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, a Managed Access Area has been established. A map of this area is also available by contacting or visiting the refuge office or by going to the Cache River NWR website: <http://cachecriver.fws.gov>.

Boundaries of the Managed Access Area and public use restrictions may be modified as more information and facts become available through continued research. Please contact the refuge office at 870/347 2614 for current information and public use regulations on the Managed Access Area.

Refuge visitors are encouraged to report any bird sightings believed to be Ivory-billed Woodpeckers to refuge officials and to carry cameras afield to document any sightings. One can also help conserve the Ivory-billed Woodpecker by keeping an eye out for the bird. Carefully study the identifying field characteristics of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, which are outlined below, and report all sightings.

All visitors should be aware that the Ivory-billed Woodpecker is protected under the Endangered Species Act, the Refuge Administration Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and other federal and state legislation. The unauthorized taking or harassment of this species is prohibited.

If you believe you may have seen an Ivory-billed Woodpecker, immediately after the sighting, make a drawing of what you saw, noting the following characteristics:

- Color of trailing edge of wing (white vs. black)
- Crest and forehead color
- Bill color
- Chin color
- Relative size
- Vocalizations
- Habitat

If you are with someone else, individuals should make their own notes without conferring with each other.

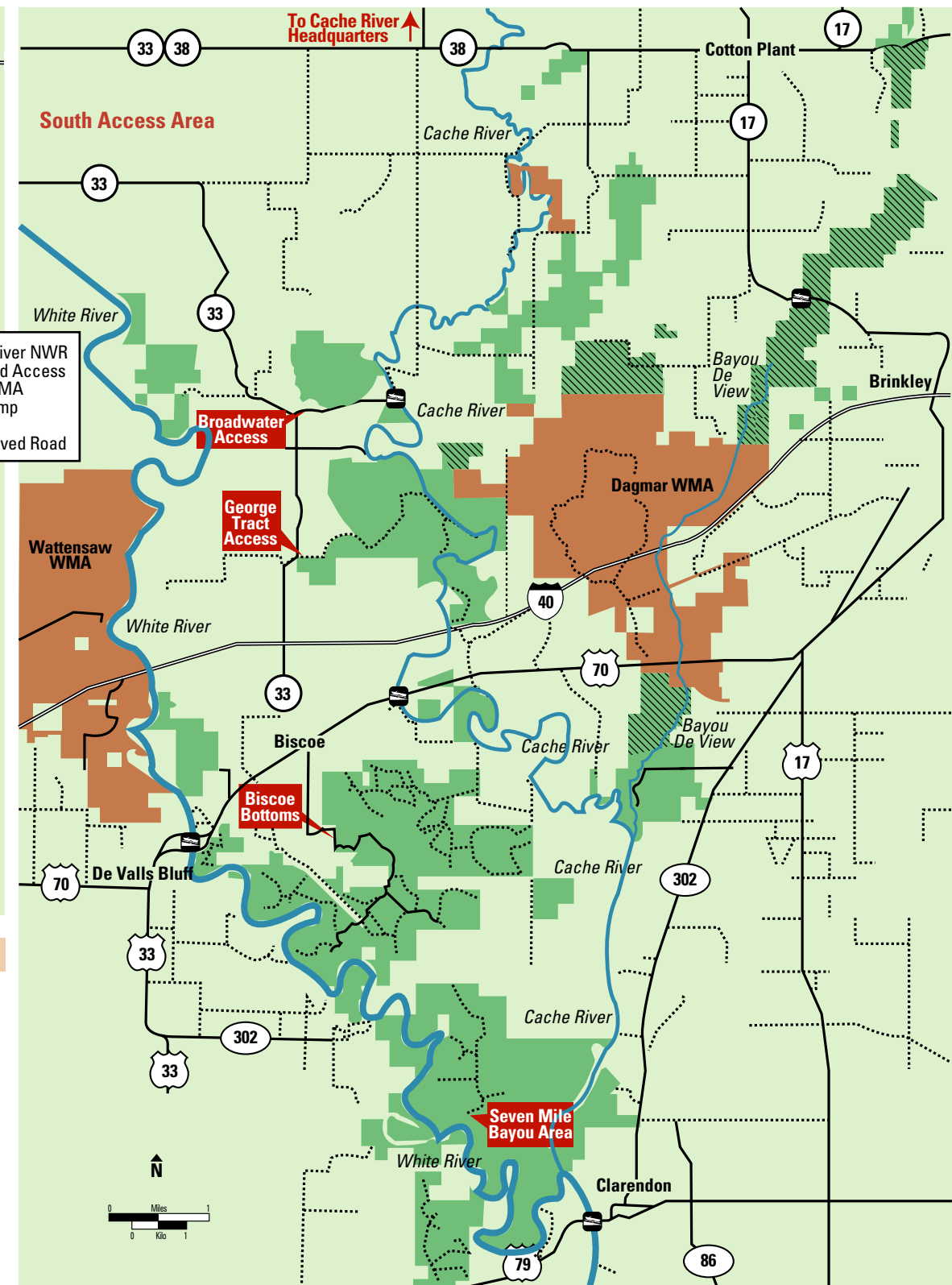
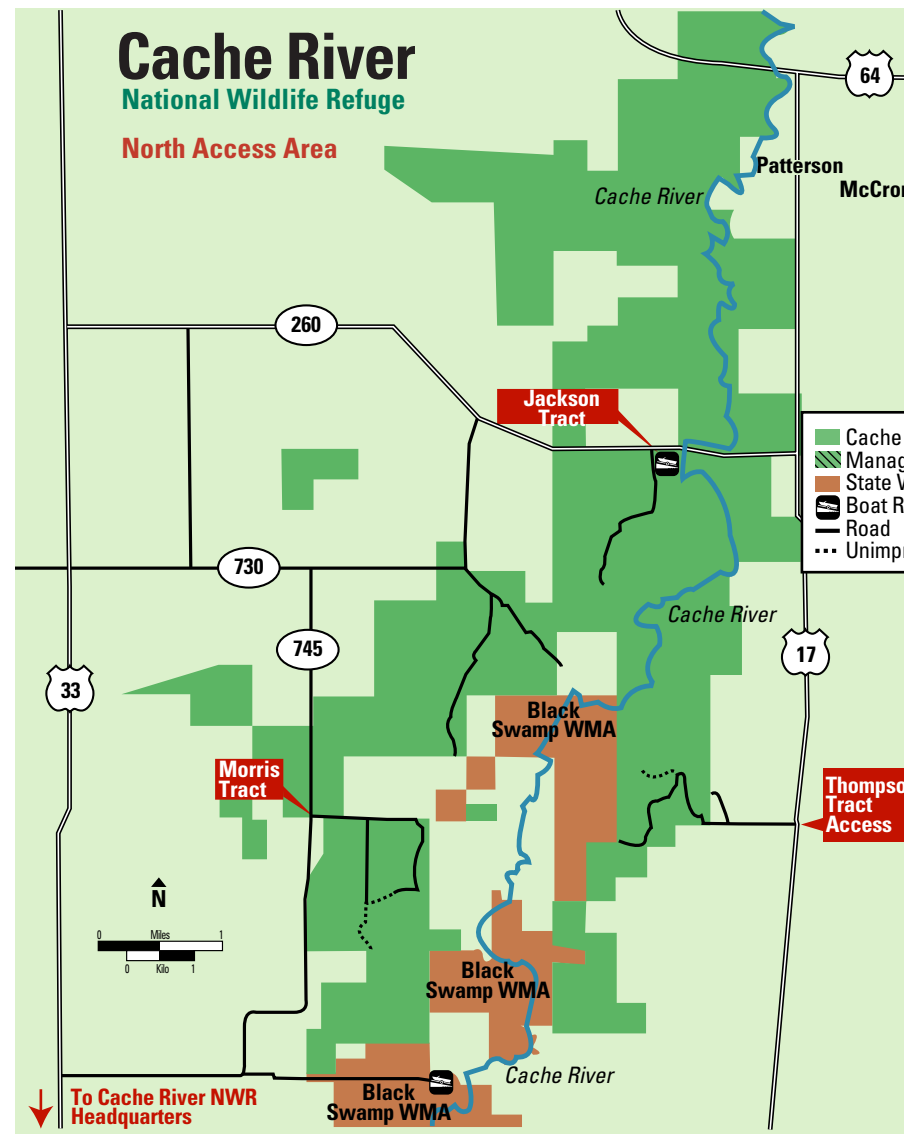
Please report any sightings to refuge officials and to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology via their website: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/ivory>.

Please bookmark these websites:
<http://www.fws.gov/ivorybill>
 Ivory-billed Woodpecker Recovery

<http://www.cachecriver.fws.gov>
 Refuge public use and regulations

<http://www.agfc.com>
 Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

<http://www.ivorybill.org>
 Information on the search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker

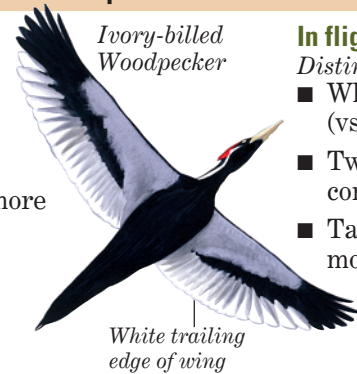


Identifying Field Marks of an Ivory-billed Woodpecker and Similar Birds

In flight - view from below

Distinct Ivory-bill characteristics:

- White trailing edge of wing (vs. dark trailing edge of Pileated).
- Wing more slender than Pileated.
- Tail feathers longer and more pointed.
- Pale, ivory-white bill.



Ivory-billed Woodpecker
White trailing edge of wing

In flight - view from above

Distinct Ivory-bill characteristics:

- White trailing edge of wing (vs. dark trailing edge of Pileated).
- Two white stripes converge on lower back.
- Tail feathers longer and more pointed.
- Pale, ivory-white bill.



Wood Duck

Pileated Woodpecker

Ivory-billed Woodpecker
White trailing edge of wing

At rest

Distinct Ivory-bill characteristics:

- Two white stripes converge on lower back.
- Entirely white secondary feathers give appearance of white "saddle" on back.
- Largely dark face and dark chin (vs. white chin of Pileated).
- Pale, ivory-white bill.
- Crest is curved and pointed; male crest is red with black forehead (Pileated male crest is entirely red).



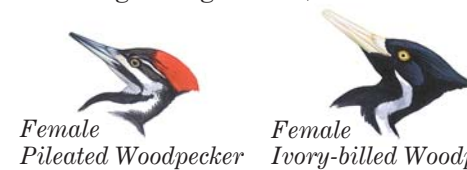
Male Pileated Woodpecker

Male Ivory-billed Woodpecker

Red-headed Woodpecker

Female Head

- Female Ivory-bill crest is entirely black (female Pileated crest resembles male ivory-billed red crest with black forehead – use chin color as distinguishing feature)



Female Pileated Woodpecker

Female Ivory-billed Woodpecker



Wood Duck

Red-headed Woodpecker

Illustrations: © David Allen Sibley

Only a portion of Cache River National Wildlife Refuge is depicted on the maps above. These maps indicate the best locations for birdwatching, and represent the best opportunities to see an Ivory-billed Woodpecker. For an all inclusive map, please obtain a free copy of the *Public Use, Hunting and Fishing Regulations* brochure. You may also purchase a detailed wall map of the refuge from Friends of Felsenthal NWR at the Cache River Headquarters.

