

Revised update relating to discussions with experts and other parties regarding Steve Sheridan's Ivory-billed Woodpecker sightings (*Campephilus principalis*) (page 3 of 6, this page added 4/29/05, updated 5/17/05)

2B-Comments regarding the crest shape. The crest shape of the two Ivory-bills was very forward curving, much more so than a Pileated. In my illustration of the second bird in flight, I have shown the crest as still showing a very pronounced forward/upward curvature even when fully lowered against the birds neck. I have never seen such crest curvature as this on a Pileated when its crest is lowered in flight. Steve Sheridan addressing crest appearance in detail in a phone conversation with Guy Luneau (1/07/05).

2C-Comments regarding the sound made by the Ivory-bill's wings in flight. Although I did not originally list it in my notes, the wings of the second Ivory-bill made a very audible "swooshing" noise as it flew by me. The wings could easily be heard in flight with each downward stroke the bird took. Steve Sheridan addressing this detail in a phone conversation with Guy Luneau (1/07/05).

2D-Comments regarding the tail. Although I did not originally bring attention to the tail of the Ivory-bill in the second sighting, you will notice I have illustrated it with a downward curve of the tail feathers. I initially thought this pronounced downward curve of the tail feathers in this bird was due to excessive wear and tear. I now know after reading *In Search of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker*, that this downward curvature of the tail feathers is again a species characteristic of the Ivory-bill. Refer to color Plate 5 of this book for reference. Steve Sheridan's comments and notes from Jerome Jackson's book.

2E-Why did you illustrate the legs as showing dark coloring. Refer to 1G leg color notes of the first sighting. Steve Sheridan's comments.

2F-How do you explain the color discrepancy of the bill and upper bill bristles. Refer to 1B for details. I would like to state that the bill color of this bird was also positively pale gray, not ivory or white. I do acknowledge that the bristle color above the bill of this second bird may have been pale grey to match the bill color, but I have illustrated it as black since I specifically saw black coloring meeting gray coloring in this area of the bird. I did not notice white bill bristles. Steve Sheridan's additional comments.

2G-Comments regarding shape deviation in black coloring on the front of the crest. The details of the second Ivory-bill's crest were seen very clearly in profile, I do not recall clearly seeing the frontal pattern of the black base since the crest was lowered as the bird was originally coming toward me. The exact pattern of the black in regard to red could not be seen clearly by me from the profile position. Steve Sheridan's additional comments.

2H-Comments regarding the sighting location. Many people have regarded my sightings as illegitimate since they occurred in the state of Indiana (the very southern most part, near the Ohio River). The Ivory-bill is listed as a species specific to southern pine forests and swamps. John James Audubon's literature indicates that historically, the Ivory-bill lived and bred in Indiana and Kentucky, refer to http://www.audubon.org/bird/BoA/F26_G1b.html paragraph 10, for more reference to Audubon's statement. Phillip Hoose's book *The Race to save the Lord God Bird* also shows the Ivory-bill as having occurred in Indiana (pre-1800s), refer to the maps on page 156. I feel that the origins/ancestors of these two different birds were possibly "habitat displaced" birds that moved up the Mississippi River, then the Ohio River. Both Rivers have kept areas of mature forest along their banks due largely to either flooding or rough terrain, making development or logging unprofitable. This remaining forest could easily act as a travel corridor northward for dispersing birds. It is quite conceivable that a bird traveling up the Ohio River could have ended up where I had my sightings. On a very related note, I noticed an article in the February 2005 National Geographic magazine regarding *a sighting of a pair of Ivory-bills in 1959 in the Iroquois Park area of Louisville, KY.* This sighting was by Mr. Thomas S. Denton. I eventually tracked down Mr. Denton and had letter and phone conversations with him. Mr. Denton was 14 at the time of his first sightings. Mr. Denton had multiple sightings of this pair of birds over a few years and also saw a nesting cavity that both birds used repeatedly. The large tree with the nesting cavity was located to the right of the first fairway of the Iroquois Park Golf course, near a very small old cemetery with a wrought iron fence around it. Mr. Denton reported his sightings locally only to be told, without investigation, that the birds he was seeing were Pileateds. Mr. Denton informed me that when building began to extend the golf course from 9 holes to 18 holes, he no longer saw these birds. Mr. Denton's sightings were within 30 miles of my sightings and certainly give me a logical explanation as to the origins of the birds in my sightings. Thomas Denton did not know if any young were produced from this nest cavity. Steve Sheridan's comments and notes from a detailed phone discussion with Thomas S. Denton in March 2005 and Phillip Hoose's book Addendum Steve Sheridan spoke again with Mr. Denton by phone on 5/17/05.

CONCLUSION - I have truly seen the Ivory-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus principalis* and recognize my sightings for what they are, genuine. These sightings were not of the Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus*. I have presented a very plausible theory for the origins of these two birds and how they may have possibly ended up at my sightings location. After having read detailed information regarding the bark scalings and calls of these birds I can truly say I have never heard their calls, nor have I ever seen any bark scalings that look like the work on the Ivory-billed. Since I have not seen additional confirmable supporting sign in the area of my sightings, I feel that the birds were passing through the area and not "attached" to this area. An extensive search by me in the 2-3 weeks following the second sighting turned up absolutely nothing, again backing my transient theory. Both these male birds may have been "dispersers" traveling far and wide in search of mates. Steve Sheridan's final commentssincerely, Steve W. Sheridan.