

A very rare resident of old-growth hardwood forest (especially oak-sweet gum forest) and long-leaf pine savanna, where it feeds mainly on beetle larvae obtained by peeling sheets of bark from recently dead trees. Usually in pairs year-round.

Ivory-billed Woodpecker

Campephilus principalis

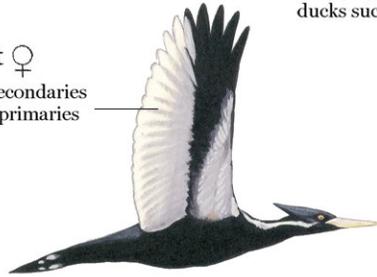
L 19 " WS 33" WT 18 Oz (520g)

Larger and more slender than Pileated, with thinner wings, longer and more pointed tail, and longer neck. All white secondaries and pale bill distinctive.

* Flight similar to Pileated but more direct, steady with rowing wingbeats and no undulation swooping up to land; slender shape may recall ducks such as Northern Pintail.

adult ♀

all white secondaries and inner primaries



adult ♀

broad white band on trailing edge of upperwing



adult ♂

extensive red crest



* Extensive bark-peeling is characteristic Ivory-bill foraging sign. Also, less often, excavates insects in wood of dead trees. Nest hole nearly round, like Pileated but slightly larger.

* Juveniles similar to adult female, but with dark iris, shorter crest, and white tips on all primaries. Gradually develops adult characteristics, and male gradually develops red crest, within a few months.

* Active and energetic, with "spirited" movements. When alert leans back with neck extended and swings whole body abruptly from side to side, pivoting on long tail and flicking the wings with each swing. Moves nimbly up and down trees with springy movements.

adult ♀

curved and pointed black crest, two white stripes converge on lower back, entirely white secondaries obvious at rest, white stripe on neck does not reach bill, pale ivory-white bill, whitish eye, glossy black body



David Sibley 2002-03

Voice: Common call a harsh, nasal kent reminiscent of the call of the Red-breasted Nuthatch but much stronger; may be single or doubled and given repeatedly kent, kent-kent, kent..... Another common call is a more drawn-out, upslurred kweent-kweent-kweent giving in series; with same nasal quality as kent call. All calls not very loud but far-carrying. The shorter kent calls often given along with strong single or double raps on resonant tree. Never gives rapid drumming like other woodpeckers. Wingbeats very noisy, producing a loud, wooden, fluttering sound.