Large Woodpeckers: Paintings by David Allen Sibley

Once again, now in the twenty-first century, an Ivory-billed Woodpecker has been reported in North America, this time in Arkansas. The last verified photograph of the species comes from 1948, in Cuba, and we are hopeful that the most recent reports will spur birders to seek out and document this species with photographs in the southern United States. Nearly all reports of Ivory-billeds pertain to its smaller relative, Pileated Woodpecker. To help observers distinguish the two, David Sibley has painted these new images (July 2005) from specimens, film footage, and still photographs. Many of the familiar field marks from the old field guides are here, but note the striking difference in the shapes of these species, both in flight and perched. The "jizz" of Ivory-billeds in direct flight has been compared to Northern Pintails, even Common Loons—so long are their bodies and wings.

Male lvory-billed **Male Pileated** Woodpecker Woodpecker **Dorsal view Dorsal view Female Ivory-billed Female Pileated** Woodpecker Woodpecker

SPECIAL SECTION

Male Ivory-billed Woodpecker Dorsal view Male Pileated Woodpecker Dorsal view

Male Ivory-billed Woodpecker Ventral view Male Pileated Woodpecker Ventral view