



LOSS OF HABITAT AND EXTINCT SPECIES... IS IT REALLY HAPPENING?

Link to our exhibit: "Louisiana's Past: In a virgin bottomland forest"

Unfortunately, for some species, it is too late. The loss of their habitat resulted in their extinction. Here are some facts about extinct species. Can you tell if they are true or false?

GAME 1: "TRUE OR FALSE" ON EXTINCTION.

- | | | TRUE | FALSE |
|----|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | At least one in eight known plant species in the world is threatened with extinction. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | Species are becoming extinct at a much faster rate now than in the past. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | 90 percent of all large fishes have disappeared from the world's oceans in the past half century, mainly because of industrial fishing. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | Lions are close to extinction as their populations in Africa have fallen by almost 90% in the past 20 years. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 | A few species of dinosaurs survived when a meteorite hit the Earth, 65 million years ago, and transformed their habitat. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 | Humans continue to drive many species to extinction by destroying ecosystems and by upsetting nature's balance (by extensive development, mining, pollution, etc). | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 | Nowadays, human-caused extinction is estimated to be taking place between 100 to 1,000 times faster than natural extinction. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 | Today's fast extinction rate is similar to five earlier periods of extinction, each caused by a catastrophic natural disaster. Thus, we are facing today the Earth's sixth major extinction phase. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 | The sixth extinction period is independent of our modern life style (pollution, industrial fishing, deforestation, etc). | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 | Nearly one of three plant species in the United States is under threat of extinction. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |





In the mid-1900s, a beautiful bird once common in Louisiana, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, became extinct as a result of the loss of its habitat. Ornithologists have little hope now of finding surviving individuals and saving this bird.

Would you recognize the Ivory-billed woodpecker if you saw one? Here are some of the main differences between three similar looking woodpeckers.



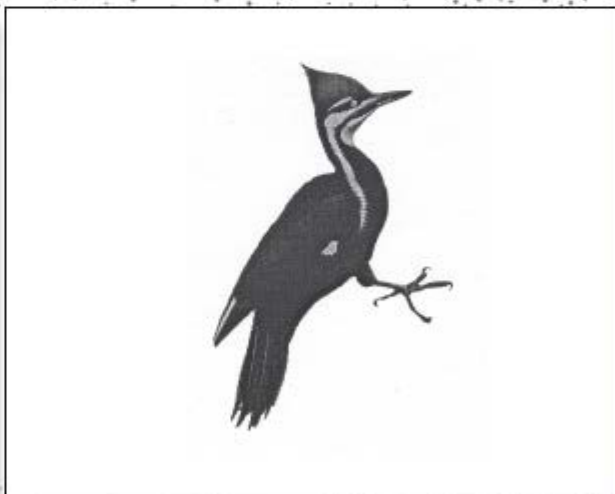
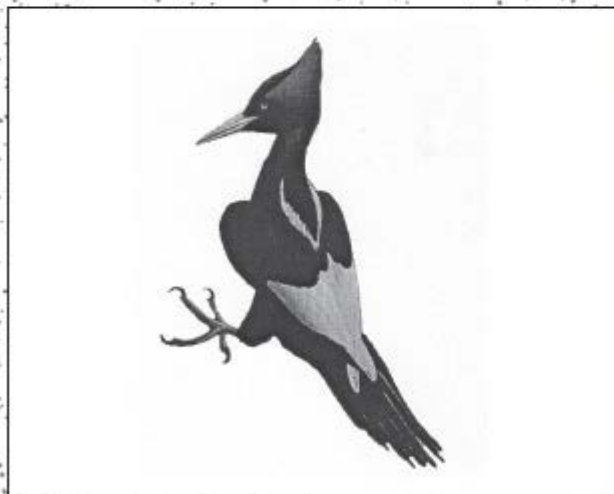
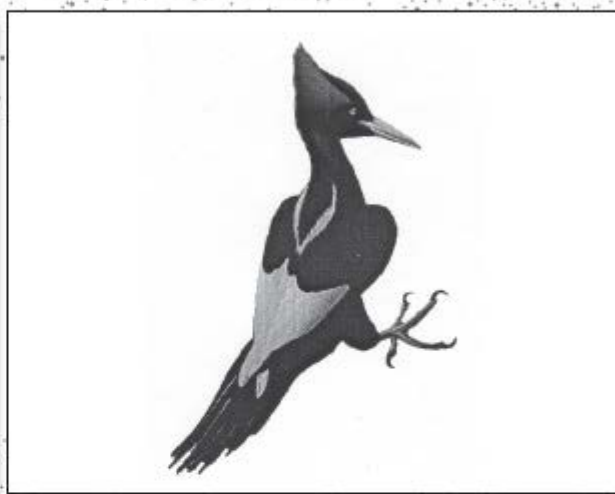
GAME 2. CAN WE STILL SAVE THE IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER?

SPECIES	Ivory-billed woodpecker	Pileated woodpecker	Imperial woodpecker
LATIN NAME	<i>Campephilus principalis</i>	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	<i>Campephilus imperialis</i>
STATUS	Officially extinct	Not federally endangered	Officially critically endangered
HABITAT	Mature bottomland and swampy forests	Mature bottomland and swampy forests, deciduous and coniferous forests, or wooded suburbs	high altitude pine forests
VOCALIZATIONS	Nasal yank yank similar to a nuthatch or a tin trumpet	The contact call is loud deep kuk kuk. They also use a yucka yucka call similar to a flicker	
SIZE	Larger than pileated. About 19.5 inches long	Crow-sized. About 16.5 inches long	The largest of all woodpeckers
PLUMAGE MARKINGS	A large white patch on rear portion of wings. On each side, a white stripe runs from the cheek down the side of the neck to meet in the middle of the back	The back is almost all black, with white only on the front portion of wing. It is only visible when in flight	Glossy greenish-black, with elongated scarlet crest and white on a portion of the wing
CREST	Male has a red crest with black on the forward-facing part of the crest down to the bill. Female has a black crest	Both male and female have red crest	Male has a red crest, but not the female
BILL	Large ivory bill. But bill color is not a good field mark	Bill gray to black	Yellowish-white





After reading their descriptions, what are the birds pictured in the drawings below?
Are they all different species?



**Great job! Next time you are in Louisiana's swamps,
be on the look out!**

