



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

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

Unfortunately, for some species, it is too late. The loss of their habitat can result 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 is under threat of extinction.
- 2 Species are becoming extinct at a much faster rate now than in the past.
- 3 90 percent of all species that have become extinct in the last 100 years did so in the last 50 years, mainly because of industrial farming.
- 4 Lions are close to extinction as their populations in Africa have fallen by almost 90% in the past 20 years.
- 5 A few species of dinosaurs survived when a meteorite hit the Earth, 65 million years ago, and transformed their habitat.
- 6 Humans continue to destroy natural habitats and ecosystems and by upsetting nature's balance through mining, pollution, etc).
- 7 Nowadays, human-caused extinction is estimated to be taking place between 100 to 1,000 times faster than natural extinction.
- 8 The current 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.
- 9 The sixth extinction period is independent of our modern life style (pollution, industrial fishing, deforestation, etc).
- 10 Nearly one of three plant species in the United States is under threat of extinction.





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. Scientists have little hope now of finding surviving individuals.

Would you like to learn more about the Ivory-billed Woodpecker? Find out about the main differences between three similar-looking woodpeckers.



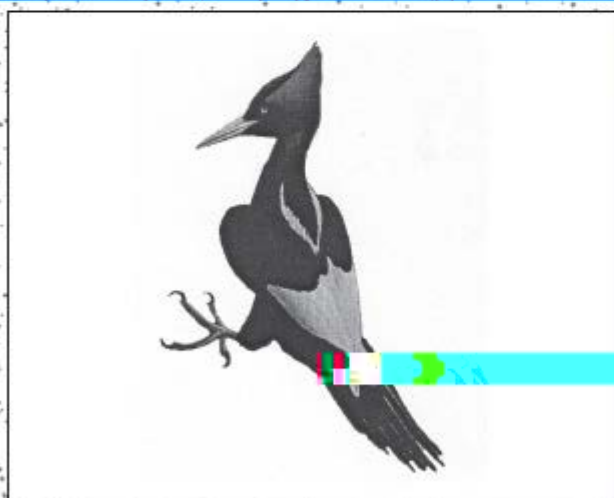
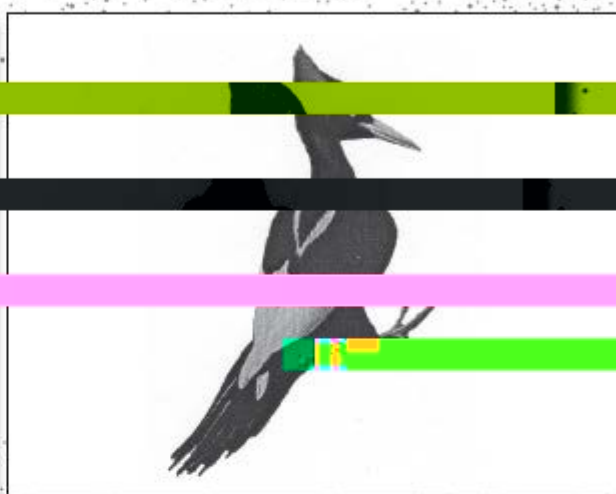
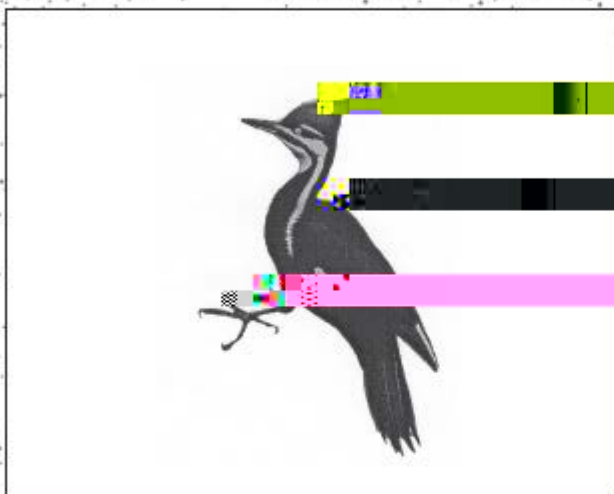
GAME 2. CAN YOU TELL?

SPECIES	Ivory-billed woodpecker	Pileated woodpecker	Imperial woodpecker
SCIENTIFIC NAME		<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	<i>Campoclypeus curvipennis</i>
STATUS	Officially extinct	Not federally endangered	Officially critically endangered
HABITAT	Mature bottomland and swampy forests	Mature bottomland and swampy forests, dry woods and coniferous forests, or wooded suburbs	high altitude pine forests
VOCALIZATION	Noisy. A loud, harsh, rattling sound, similar to a tin trumpet.	Deep kuk kuk. They also use a "yawa-wurka" call similar to a flicker.	
SIZE	Larger than pileated. About 19.5 inches long	Crow-sized. About 40.5 inches long	The largest of the three woodpeckers
PLUMAGE MARKINGS	A large white patch on rear portion. On the left 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 a white stripe on the side of the neck visible when in flight.	Glossy greenish-black, with 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 description
Are they all different species?



Great job! Next time you're in Louisiana,
be on the look out!

Drawing by

