On the Arkansas search for ivory-billed woodpecker

By Deborah Zabarenko

A search for the elusive ivory-billed woodpecker, focusing on irregularly-shaped holes in some of the most remote parts of the U.S. interior.

This year, the search is highly publicized in hopes it will attract more support for the conservation of the bird's habitat.

INTENSIVE SEARCH
Looking for holes in trees is an important part of the search, especially since the holes where an ivory-billed woodpecker might nest can be easily confused with those of a pilate woodpecker. But researchers are trained to spot the differences between the two, as well as a brief video of the bird, but researchers

to declare in April 2005 that the ivory bill had survived.

Until the public assessment, the ivory-billed woodpecker's survival was unknown. Andrei Mihalev, a researcher at a team of experts and volunteers are focusing on the Big Woods section of Arkansas.

The ivory-billed woodpecker was declared extinct for the last 40 years until a positive sighting in February 2000 in an Arkansas swamp.

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