

TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: Fred Collins

INTERVIEWER: David Todd

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IvoryBilledWoodpecker_Collins_Fred_HoustonTX_19October2021_17133024720_Reel4074.m
p3

Google Voice [00:00:00] This call is now being recorded.

David Todd [00:00:03] Well, Mr. Collins, we meet again.

Fred Collins [00:00:08] We do.

David Todd [00:00:10] Well, I'm so glad. Thank you for calling back, and I just look forward to resuming where we left off. And uh.

Fred Collins [00:00:18] Okay. Sorry about that.

David Todd [00:00:21] That's quite all right.

Fred Collins [00:00:24] It's getting late and I need to hurry.

Fred Collins [00:00:28] So I wrote this article, "Ivory-Billed Woodpeckers found in Arkansas: Implications for Texas in 2005". And we were all very optimistic at that point in time. And we also believe that they had, in fact, found the birds. So. This paper that I wrote in 2005, was, was speculation based on that assumption.

Fred Collins [00:01:01] But anyway, in that, in that article, I made a couple of points that I think are worth talking about. That, Tanner, who's the only person to have ever methodically studied the species and reported on that, and he, and he, in essence, studied mostly just one pair. So we don't know if that's really completely typical or not.

Fred Collins [00:01:45] And he was in the Tanner tract, which was a large virgin forest still at that point in terms. So we're drawing a lot of what we know from, of the birds, based on his observation and what he reported.

Fred Collins [00:02:02] He didn't put everything in his report that he knew. And he didn't put some things in the report because it would not make him look so good. And those, those things were later divulged over time. And a lot of it didn't come out until after 2005, when interest in his report got very strong. He had passed away, but his wife was still living and provided his notes to people and, and we learned some additional things about him and his observations at that point in time.

Fred Collins [00:02:45] So anyway, he had pointed out that the birds had a nomadic tendency and that he had commented in this book that they were fairly easy to keep up with all day, or fairly easy to locate, but they were hard to keep up with, because they would move so far,

sometimes with one, with one flight. So he couldn't keep up with them. And the pair would call to one another, so whenever they landed, they would start calling to one another again, and they could relocate them and go off.

Fred Collins [00:03:27] And he also reported that there were some dispersal that he thought was not associated with mortality, but he thought it was just these birds dispersing from the area. So, based, based on that, you can assume that the birds could pick up a nomadic lifestyle fairly easily.

Fred Collins [00:03:59] And then what he didn't reveal in his book that was found, that we learned after 2005 from his wife, was that Tanner had never been able to find these birds by himself. So his known pair that he studied and was talking about, that they were easy to keep up with. He couldn't find them without the help of his local guide. And that's the man that was in the pictures, the famous pictures he took of this juvenile woodpecker hopping around on this fellow. And that was his guide, and the guide could find the woodpeckers. But Tanner, in spite of having studied them all those years, was not able to keep up with him.

Fred Collins [00:04:38] Unfortunately, I have to stop again. I'll call you right back.

David Todd [00:04:42] All right. Not a problem.