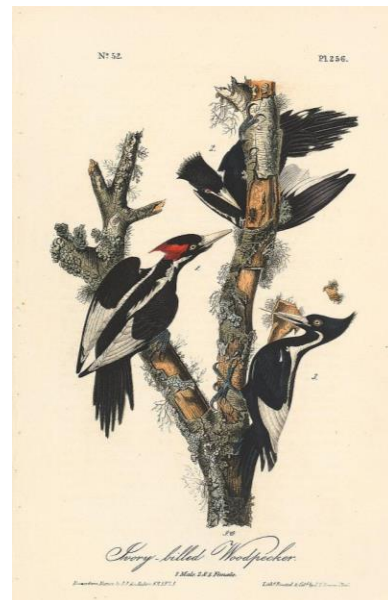


THE MONTCLAIR BIRD CLUB

QUIZ 126

December 12, 2021

We know that these birds no longer exist anywhere. In what sequence are they believed to have gone extinct?



Exploring the hybrid speciation [continuum in birds](#).

THE ANSWER IS ON THE NEXT PAGE



Carolina Parakeet

The only parrot native to New Jersey and to the eastern United States, the last captive Carolina parakeet died in 1918, but the species almost certainly survived into the late 1930s in the swampy forests of Florida and perhaps elsewhere in the southeast. You can read [more about this species here](#).



Passenger Pigeon

Perhaps the best-known story of extinction is the passenger pigeon's. Once abundant, in flocks that sometimes exceeded a billion individuals, the species breathed its last in the Cincinnati Zoo in 1914, when its last surviving member, Martha, fell from her perch. [The last New Jersey record](#) was of a specimen shot in Englewood in 1896. You can find [more anecdotes and episodes here](#).



Great Auk

This huge flightless alcid, the "penguin" of the North Atlantic, was the victim of human depredation. Auks were killed for down to stuff bedding and for oil to heat food on tree-free islands; scientific collecting may have played a role in the demise of the last known colony. The latest certain record of the species is of a pair in an Icelandic colony, killed in 1844; the egg they were incubating was smashed. The last known bird in Great Britain had been clubbed to death four years earlier on suspicion of witchcraft. Information about two disputed [records from the early 1850s is here](#).



Ivory-billed Woodpecker

The last ivory-billed woodpecker in Louisiana's Singer Tract was seen in 1944; it, and any other survivors, vanished with the big trees when the famous sewing machine company finished logging the area. Sixty years later, a bird was reported from Arkansas, but in spite of a well-financed search, no ivory-billeds were detected there, and [the consensus](#) quickly formed that the original sighting had been a misidentification. Nevertheless, cryptozoologists, psychics, and a broad range of other kooks and weirdos continue to "believe." For more on some of the cultural echoes of the claimed discovery, [see here](#).

Ornithological Quiz Master: Rick Wright
Assistant & Photographer: Sandy Sorkin



Southwest Wings

