

WHAT ARE THE STANDARD PROTECTION MEASURES THAT ARE REQUIRED?

The Seminole Tribe of Florida is required by the Federal Endangered Species Act to abide by standard measures adopted to protect this threatened jay:

1. All construction personnel watch the Wildlife Education Workshop video which includes information on the Florida scrub jay and be able to identify a scrub jay and have brochures onsite.
2. A qualified observer/biologist will be on-site for notification by construction personnel if a scrub jay is sighted.
3. If an scrub jay is found on the construction site, all activity must cease immediately, and the jay allowed to move away from any dangerous area on its own.



WHO DO YOU CONTACT IF YOU SEE A FLORIDA SCRUB JAY ON THE RESERVATION?

Contact your direct supervisor

You may also contact:

***Seminole Tribe of Florida's
Wildlife Biologist***

Phone: 863-902-3249 x13411

Cell: 954-410-7073

Email: ermdwildlife@semtribe.com

**Seminole Tribe of Florida
Environmental Resource
Management Department**

Florida Scrub Jay *Aphelocoma coerulescens*



Protecting Tribal Resources

WHAT IS A FLORIDA SCRUB JAY?



The scrub jay was listed as a threatened species in 1975 by Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and has been federally listed as a threatened species since 1987.

Scrub jays are the only species of bird found exclusively in Florida (an endemic species). The species has evolved to live in Florida's unique scrubland habitats. Florida scrubs are the relics of Pliocene savannahs. Scrubs are xeric (dry), sandy, well drained, infertile soils, dominated by oak and sand pines and dependent on fires to maintain their unique habitat.

WHY IS THE SCRUB JAY THREATENED?

- Loss of the unique scrub habitat that the species depends upon, only 10-15% of which still remains, due to:
 - *Scrub being replaced by housing developments and orange groves
 - *Suppression of natural fires leading to conversion of scrub habitats

HOW CAN YOU IDENTIFY A SCRUB JAY?



Adult (above-left):

- Blue face, wings, and tail with grey under parts
 - Black eyes, beak, feet, and dark coloration around eyes
- *Male and female look identical, though the male is larger

Juvenile (above-right):

- A duller version of the adult
- They have an entirely grey head which changes to blue as they reach maturity

WHAT ARE THEIR NESTING HABITS?

Scrub jays nest in shrubby oaks and build shallow nests of twigs and palmetto fibers 3-11 ft high off the ground. They mate for life and produce 2-5 pale green and red-brown spotted eggs. The species exhibits cooperative breeding, with the offspring staying at least a year to help rear young, defend territory, and watch for predators.



WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF SCRUB JAYS?

Scrub jays are omnivorous eating insects, mice, eggs, young birds, and also acorns, nuts, and fruit. The scrub jay call is a sharp “quay-quay-quay” or “cheek-cheek-cheek”, with the female having a unique “hiccup” vocalization. Recent studies have shown that they are one of the most intelligent animals, having a large brain to body mass ratio.



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU SEE A SCRUB JAY?

If you encounter a scrub jay, avoid all contact with it. If you are driving a vehicle or heavy equipment, stop, cease operation and allow the jay to pass before resuming construction. Do not touch the jay or harass it in any way. Please contact your supervisor or the number on the back of this pamphlet to report the location and circumstance of all sightings.