

Jay Watch brings together researchers, land managers and citizens in an effort to conduct surveys of Florida scrub-jay populations on public and private lands. Initially, surveys have been restricted to the Lake Wales Ridge or nearby ridges, but the ultimate goal of Jay Watch is to implement surveys throughout the range of this threatened species. The objectives of Jay Watch are to develop a scientifically rigorous program that:

- conducts repeated and consistent surveys of Florida scrub-jay populations throughout their range;
- monitors spatial and temporal trends among jay populations and tracks habitat changes to help managers evaluate the ecological consequences of management actions; and
- educates the public about Florida scrub-jays and scrub habitat conservation.

Benefits

- Jay Watch assists land managers with fire management decisions. The program provides land managers with current spatial distributions of scrub-jay populations, enabling them to design burn plans that outline long-term benefits to scrub-jays, while reducing short-term impacts. Annual Jay Watch data provides a feedback loop informing managers about the relative success of their management actions.
- Jay Watch helps scientists evaluate annual trends of many different populations of scrub-jays over a relatively large geographical scale. Jay Watch provides data about the number of juvenile scrub-jays being recruited into populations and the average size of family groups — both are key parameters in evaluating the ecological health of the bird's populations.
- Jay Watch provides a means for managers and scientists to collaborate on developing management plans that will ensure healthy populations of scrub-jays. By collecting habitat and population data simultaneously, scientists and managers can evaluate scrub-jay population responses to specific management actions.



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The scrub-jay is Florida's only endemic bird. Habitat loss is pushing the bird toward extinction.

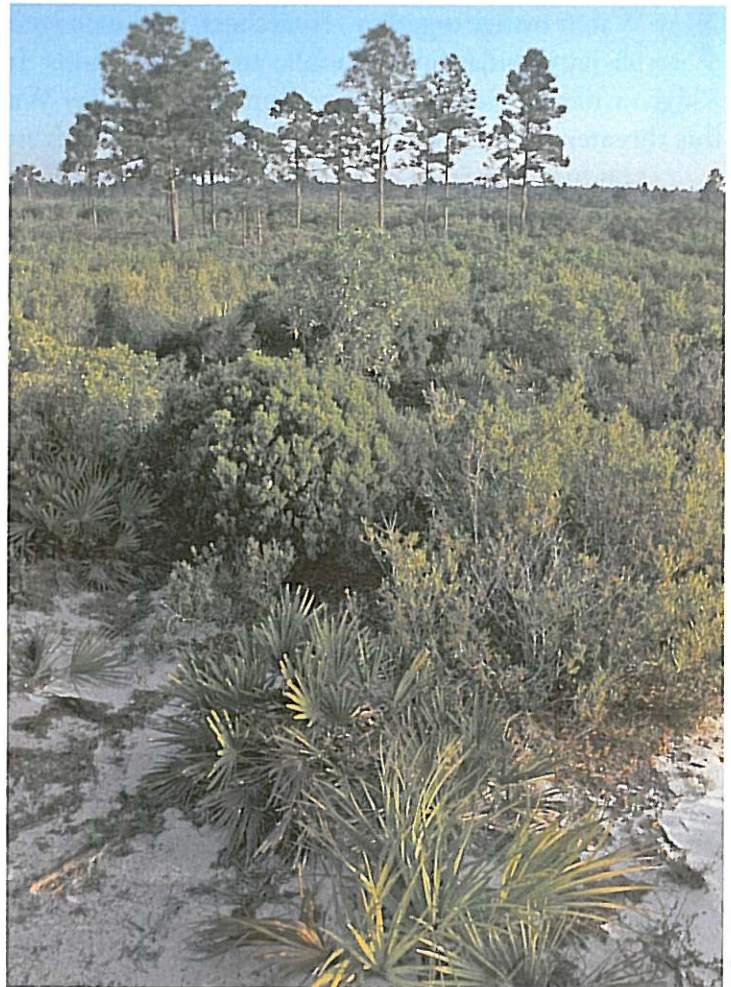


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Jay Watch volunteers observe the behavior of scrub-jays. Information collected is analyzed with the assistance of Archbold Biological Station.

Jay Watch provides a **forum** for land managers and scientists
to **collaborate** on efforts to
protect Florida scrub-jays

- Jay Watch offers the opportunity to compare how different agency management activities (federal, state, county, or nonprofit) affects this listed species.
- Jay Watch provides data about the occurrence of banded birds within groups and enables tracking of their movements among populations. These data assist land acquisition priorities by exposing possible ecological gaps in our network of reserves.
- Jay Watch assists U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service partners by providing Florida scrub-jay survey data for their regulatory reporting.
- Jay Watch allows agencies to be proactive and adaptive. Prior to the program, a statewide survey was conducted once every 10 years, which forced land managers to be reactive to the decline of the Florida scrub-jay.
- Jay Watch raises public awareness and creates public participation that results in public support for the conservation of this species and its imperiled habitat as well as for land management activities such as prescribed burning.



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The Florida scrub-jay is one of 26 listed species that depend on healthy scrub habitat to survive.

For more information, contact: The Nature Conservancy • Lake Wales Ridge Program • 155 Pfundstein Road • Babson Park, FL 33827-0630 • Phone: (863) 635.7506 • Fax: (863) 635-6456 • nature.org/florida

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to protect the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.