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## On foot or film, 2 ways to see the Florida scrub jay

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VENUS — Want to find out more about our brash, boisterous, and blue, iconic bird, the federally threatened Florida scrub jay?

Archbold Biological Station plans a scrub jay walking tour Saturday, Feb. 28, beginning at 8:30 a.m. through a scrub jay nesting territory along one of several Station nature trails. This character of the scrub is the subject of over four decades of research projects and accumulated scientific data making it one of the most studied birds in the U.S.

This is a special opportunity to walk along with Dr. Reed Bowman, Avian Ecologist and Director of the Avian Ecology Program at Archbold, who has been part of the scrub jay project for over 20 years. He also currently oversees Archbold's red-cockaded woodpecker and Florida grasshopper sparrow projects at the Avon Park Air Force Range.

"It's close to nesting season and we should see lots of interesting behavior although there is never any guarantee that the jays will appear even when you are in their home domain," explained Bowman.

Those who are unable to learn about the scrub jays while on foot, can now view them online. Archbold's new short film, *At Home in the Florida Scrub*, takes Web guests on a fun tour of life as a scrub jay. "The Florida scrub jay will fascinate you with its tales of fire, hidden acorns and island history," begins the 20-minute film.

The link for the online viewing is on the Archbold website, [www.archbold-station.org](http://www.archbold-station.org).

“We have had terrific and unexpected feedback and seem to be creating a new fan base,” said Education Coordinator, Dustin Angell, who is featured in the film. “A class of second-graders from Wisconsin discovered our film and wrote comments about ‘how the scrub looks so different, and the pretty birds.’”

Filmmaker Jennifer Brown of *Into Nature Films*, translated decades of science creating unique perspectives along with humor, time-lapses, rich sounds, screen trivia, and stories to increase wonder for the scrub jay and Florida scrub.

“This is a science education film with universal appeal, suitable for everyone from elementary school students to JayWatch citizen scientists,” Brown described.

“Archbold scientists and interns worked with biologists from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, University of Memphis and others experts from around the world to bring this film to life.”

Archbold Biological Station is eight miles south of Lake Placid. The entrance is 1.8 miles south of State Road 70 on Old State Road 8. Visit us at [www.archbold-station.org](http://www.archbold-station.org) . During business hours call 863-465-2571.

*Archbold Biological Station is an independent, not-for-profit research facility and lies within the Northern Everglades, the lands that drain south into Lake Okeechobee. The Station is dedicated to long-term ecological research, conservation, and education. It's all part of the global effort to understand, interpret, and preserve the world's natural heritage.*

Photos:

Courtesy photo/Alex Gazio

Brash, boisterous and blue, meet the federally threatened Florida scrub jay on Saturday, Feb 28 at 10 a.m. at Archbold Biological Station.