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*A Florida scrub-jay along the Yellow Trail.
— Photo by Julie Stocksdale*

Florida Scrub-Jays at Oscar Scherer State Park

LEADER	Julie Stocksdale 727-418-5119
WHEN	Saturday, October 31, 2026 — meet at the Nature Center at 9:30 AM
WHERE	Oscar Scherer State Park, 1843 South Tamiami Trail, Osprey, FL 34229

About the Trip

On Saturday, October 31, we'll hike part of the Yellow Trail in Oscar Scherer State Park for the opportunity to see the only bird endemic just to Florida: the Florida scrub-jay.

Let's meet at the Nature Center at 9:30 AM — stop and pay the park entry fee at the Ranger Station (\$4 for 1 person in a car, \$5 for 2–8 people per car) and drive in to the Nature Center. We'll gather there and then drive a short distance to the end of the paved road, where we'll enter the paved Legacy Trail and continue on to the entrance of the Yellow Trail.

The trail is soft sand in scrubby flatwoods. It shouldn't take us too long to get into a scrub-jay family's territory and see them perched in the scrub oaks or burying acorns right in the sandy trail. Bring your camera — these birds are often eager to pose for photos!

After our hike, we can opt for lunch at Casey Key Fish House, right on the Intracoastal Waterway.

This hike is open to non-members and there's no limit. Children are welcome, but please, no dogs. Be sure to bring some water.



Scrub-jays are famously curious and unafraid — this one came right up along the trail. — Photo by Julie Stocksdale

Good to Know Before You Go

- **Park hours:** 8:00 AM to sunset, 365 days a year.
- **Nature Center:** open Saturdays & Sundays, 10:00 AM–2:00 PM — we'll be gathering just outside before it opens.
- **The Florida scrub-jay** is the state's only bird found nowhere else on Earth. It survives solely in Florida's scrub habitat, and Oscar Scherer protects one of the most important remaining stretches of it — the reason our trail leads through scrub oaks and sand rather than the park's shadier pine flatwoods.
- **Footing:** soft, sandy trail — wear closed-toe shoes you don't mind getting sandy.
- Park website: floridastateparks.org/oscar-scherer-state-park | 941-483-5956

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