

SHRUBS IN THE SCRUB

OAK TREES ARE THE MOST DOMINANT RESOURCE FOR WILDLIFE PRESERVATION IN THE OAK SCRUB ENVIRONMENT



Source: Cleber Ferreira, Allaboutbirds.com

FLORIDA SCRUB-JAYS (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) are an endangered bird species in Florida who are now down to 10% of their original numbers. They live their entire lives on a single patch of scrub. Florida Scrub-Jays are omnivores, and eat Oak tree acorns, arthropods and small vertebrates. They make their nests in trees.

Source: The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, www.allaboutbirds.org and Living Bird Magazine, Scrubland Survivor: The Florida Scrub-Jay By Hugh Powell, October 15, 2008



Source: USGS: wpclipart.com

SCARLET KINGSNAKES (*Lampropeltis elapsoides*) are commonly mistaken for coral snakes, but are non-venomous. They like well-drained areas in pine forests, hardwood hammocks, and sandhill habitats. Kingsnakes are generally nocturnal and terrestrial, hiding under logs and waiting for the opportunity to feed on lizards, rodents and invertebrates, as well as other snakes.

Source: Florida Museum of Natural History, fmnh.ufl.edu/herpetology/fl-snakes/list/lampropeltis-elapsoides/



Source: Pascal Goetgheluck & Ardea London

GALL WASPS (*Callirhytis cornigera*) leave behind eggs in leaves. The tree then forms a protective layer around the egg called "galls", which are tumor-like growths inside of which their larvae are protected. The gall not only protects larvae, but provides food for immature wasps. Inside a gall, the larvae are surrounded by tissues rich in nutrients (Askew 1984). Galls are known to cause damage to the oak tree twigs.

Source: University of Florida IFAS Extension, entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/trees/Callirhytis_gall_wasps.htm



Source: S&DK Maslowski, <http://www.arkive.org>

RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) use the cavities of dead (or partially dead) trees for their nests. They eat insects, fruits, and seeds. They eat both animals and plant material including acorns. They are known to hide extra food in tree crevices. Unfortunately, these woodpeckers have declined 70% due to habitat loss and removal of their homes which are snags, a.k.a. dead trees.

Source: The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, www.allaboutbirds.org



Source: Wikimedia Commons, Glenn Bartolotti

FLORIDA SCRUB LIZARDS (*Sceloporus woodi*) are the only spiny lizards east of the Mississippi river. They live in areas of sand pine and oak scrubs. Local experts consider them threatened due to habitat fragmentation and fire suppression near developed areas and agriculture. Success of the species may be hindered due to its very limited dispersal of only a few hundred meters.

Source: University of Florida IFAS Extension, WEC 139, edfi.ifas.ufl.edu/uw133



CHAPMAN OAK
Quercus chapmanii



DWARF LIVE OAK
Quercus minima



FLORIDA SCRUB OAK
Quercus inopina



MYRTLE OAK
Quercus myrtifolia



RUNNER OAK
Quercus pumila



SAND LIVE OAK
Quercus geminata



Source: Wikipedia, upload.wikimedia.org

EASTERN GREY SQUIRRELS (*Sciurus carolinensis*) belong to the rodent family. They spend most of their lives in trees and prefer oaks and hickories. They like to eat tree bark, berries, seeds and acorns. One squirrel can make several thousand food caches each season. They make their nests in the forks of trees.

Source: Wikipedia website, en.wikipedia.org
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
www.myfwc.com



Source: myfwc.com - Cliff Leonard

GOPHER TORTOISES (*Gopherus polyphemus*) can be found in oak sand hills, scrub, pine flatwoods and coastal dunes in the southeastern United States. It is estimated that over 350 species are dependent on the burrows they create, including the following commensals: Florida Pine Snake, Eastern Indigo Snake, Florida Mouse and the Gopher Frog. They also play an important role in seed distribution due to the wide variety passed through their digestive systems. Habitat loss and fire suppression are their primary challenges to their survival.

Source: Defenders of Wildlife www.defenders.org and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission www.myfwc.com



Source: Lyle J. Buss, University of Florida

THORN BUGS (*Umbonia crassicornis*) are known to cause damage to their host trees because they pierce the tree and suck out sap. They are typically 0.5 inches in length, green or yellow with reddish lines or brown markings. They are able to enable chemical communication- making themselves taste bad to predators.

Source: University of Florida IFAS Extension, edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/IN/IN33200.pdf



Source: Linwood Ferguson Photography

BOBCATS (*Lynx rufus*) are carnivorous and eat the small animals that live in the Oak Scrub ... rabbits, rodents, and birds. During winter, they like to prey on migrating birds that pass through Florida. They live in a variety of habitats where they can use trees and shrubs for dens and resting sites. They can coexist with panthers since they do not share prey.

Source: University of Florida IFAS Extension, UW201; Pets On Mom, animals.mom.me/wild-bobcats-florida-6154.html; Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission www.myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/profiles/mammals/land/bobcat/



Source: James Solomon, USDA Forest Services and William T. Hart M.D. (moth)

PINK STRIPED OAK WORM MOTHS (*Anisota virginiensis*) depends on oak tree leaves for food. It leaves behind small yellow to brown eggs that can be found on the underside of leaves. The caterpillars feed on leaves for 5-6 weeks, during which time they can very effectively defoliate oak leaves - causing great damage. The caterpillars turn into pink striped oakworm moths.

Source: University of Florida IFAS Extension, okeechobee.ifas.ufl.edu/News%20columns/Pinkstriped%20Oakworm.htm