

My Wetland Book on the Western Scub Jay



Written by Jesus



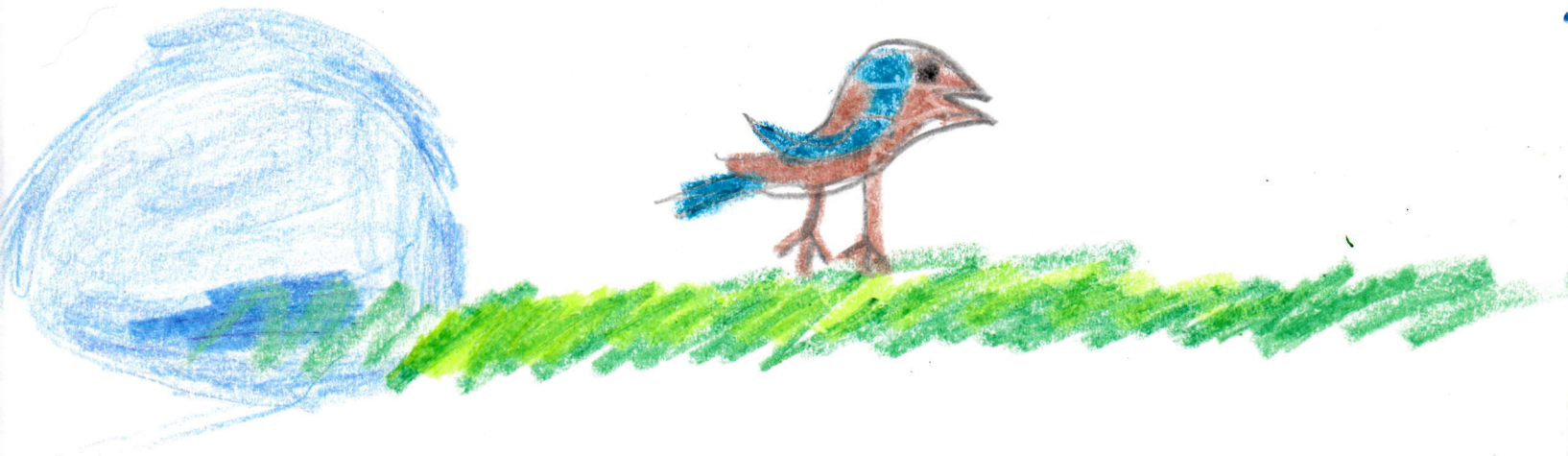
Hello fellow students. My name is Jesús  
and I'm a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at an elementary  
school in Watsonville. I'm in a special class where  
we are learning about *wetlands* and I'd like to  
share with you about what *wetlands* are, how  
*important* they are, and an *animal* of particular  
interest to me, the Western Scrub Jay



**About me...**

**But before I start my book, I'd like to share with you about some of my favorite things.**

I like playing soccer and video games.  
I also like using computers.



**Okay, now I'm ready to write about what wetlands are, their importance, and facts about one of my favorite animals, the Western Scrub Jay.**

**First, *wetlands* are essentially a very unique ecosystem in that the land is always, or at least most of time, wet- hence the name, *wetlands*. This ecosystem has special characteristics such as:**

There is fresh water and shallow water.

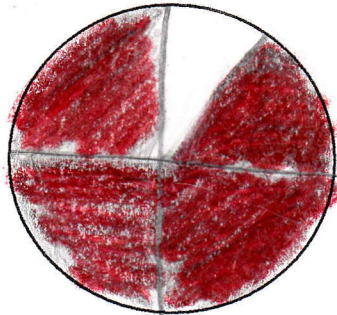
Plants grow in the water.

The mud is wet and sticky.






**Second, 90% of the wetlands have been destroyed due to development and unsustainable farming practices. That means, only 10% remain today. We must conserve and protect this ecosystem.**



**pie chart**

 = destroyed

 = remaining wetlands

**percentage**

90%

**fraction**

$\frac{90}{100}$

**decimal**

0.90

**Third, we are very fortunate to literally have wetlands as part of our community. They serve many *important* purposes, such as:**

- provide a habitat for plants and animals
- absorb rain water (control floods)
- duckweed and other water plants filter the water clean.



Fourth, there is a particular *animal* of interest to me, namely the Western Scrub Jay. I chose this *animal* because One time I saw a blue jay and I was interested in it. Then in school I saw the Western Scrub Jay and it looked like the stellar blue jay.



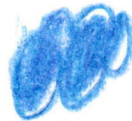
In the following paragraphs, I will briefly discuss what I researched about my animal of interest, the Western Scrub Jay. I will cover the following: classification, common name, scientific name, physical characteristics, behavior, if the animal camouflages, adaptations, range, migratory, population, status, reproduction, habitat, prey, predators, where animal fits in food web, and whether the Ohlone Indians used the animal for food, clothing, or other purposes. *I hope you enjoy the book!*





## Classification

The western scrub jay is a vertebrate because it has a backbone. It is classified as a bird because it has feathers, it can fly, and it lays eggs.



## Names

The western scrub jay has two names. The common name is western scrub jay, and the *scientific name* is *Apelcoma californica*.

In science, the *scientific name* is the genus and species of the animal or plant.

**Physical characteristics... my animal looks like...**

**My animal** is a lanky bird with a  
long floppy tail and often  
hunched over posture.  
Their color depends on light so  
western scrub jays often look dark.



**Camouflage...does my animal blend into its environment?**

After looking at my animal and reading more about it, I realize that it does not  
camouflage  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## ***Adaptations***

**My animal is unique because** they store  
food scattered through their  
territories. They are omnivores  
which means they eat meat and  
vegetation.

## ***Animal behavior***

**The way I would describe the behavior of my animal is** it burries its acorns in  
the ground and if another bird  
sees them it burries them in  
another place, because it needs food  
for winter.



## ***Range***

The Western Scrub Jay is found in California

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***Migratory...does it travel from one location to another during seasons?***

The Western scrub jay does not migrate. For example, \_\_\_\_\_

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## Population

The population of my animal is unknown

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## Status

The status of the western scrub jay tells me whether it is endangered, threatened, or stable. What I found out is that the western scrub jay is stable. I find this interesting because they are safe

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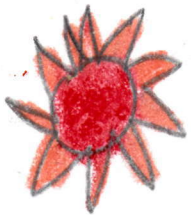
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## ***Reproduction***

The reproduction of the western scrub jay is  
that their eggs must be incubated  
for 15-17 days

## ***Habitat...home***

The western scrub jay's habitat is open  
or semi-open terrain with thick  
brush which neighbors gardens or farms, often  
near oak trees.





***Prey and predator...(to eat and to be eaten)***

**The prey my animal eats are:** insects  
and spiders.  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**My animal eats other things such as:**  
acorns, fruit, and seeds.  
\_\_\_\_\_.

insects



other things

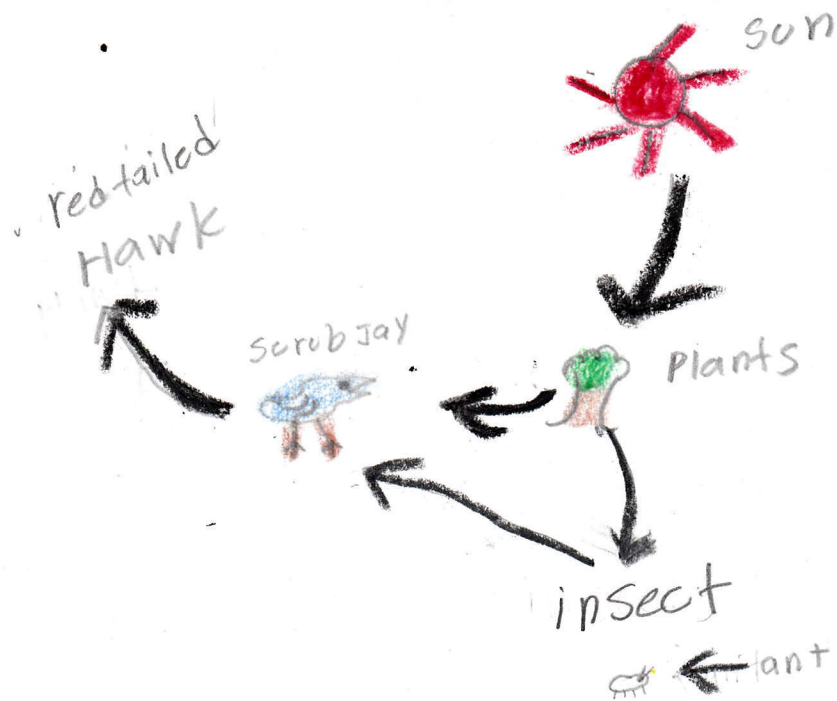


**The predators that eat me are:** 9  
Red-tailed - Hawks eat 9  
Western Scrub Jays.  
\_\_\_\_\_.



## ***Food web***

**My animal is a western scrub jay. The following picture demonstrates where my animal fits in the food web.**



## ***Ohlone Indians***

**I'm curious to see if the Ohlone Indians used the western scrub jay in anyway, for example, for food, clothing, or for other purposes. What I**

**discovered** is that the Ohlone Indians  
didn't hunt this animal



## References

(books, articles, web-sites, etc. )

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com) Western scrub Jay information for kids

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com) Western scrub Jay facts for kids

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com) Western Scrub Jay's behavior facts for kids

[www.birding.com](http://www.birding.com)

**Thank you for reading my book. I hope you enjoyed it and learned a lot about the western scrub jay. Please feel free to *comment* about my book and also, test your knowledge by answering the following *questions* below. I look forward to hearing from you.**

**Comments for me:**

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**Questions for you: (See if you can answer these...)**

1. Does the western scrub Jay camouflage?
2. What is the status of my animal?
3. What is the western scrub jay's reproduction?