

Scrub Jay



An Oak's Best Friend

As acorns ripen in the fall, a single scrub jay can collect and bury over 5,000 acorns. Biologists have clocked jays collecting more than 400 acorns per hour! Only about half of the buried acorns are retrieved and eaten by the jay, leaving the rest for other animals or to sprout into new trees. In this way, the jays provide an important service to the oaks, distributing the acorns throughout the woodland and planting the acorns point-side down so they have the best chance of sprouting. What a good friend the oak has in the jay.



Try This:

Count all of the oak trees shorter than you. Where are all of the young trees? Despite the efforts of the scrub jays, almost every acorn and seedling dies from drought, disease or predation in its first few years of life.

