

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-

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**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING DESIGNATING THE FLORIDA SCRUB JAY AS THE STATE BIRD OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA.**

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Scrub Jay is only found in the State of Florida. This is the only bird in the Eastern United States that is found in one state, which is the State of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, in the year 2000, ten thousand (10,000) Florida residents, which included many school children, signed a petition urging the Florida Legislature to make the native Florida Scrub Jay our State Bird replacing the Mockingbird, which is also the State Bird of Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mockingbird was adopted as the Florida State Bird by Florida Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3, which was approved on April 23, 1927. Because the Mockingbird was adopted as the Florida State Bird by Senate Concurrent Resolution, it is not a part of Florida law, and is not documented in Florida Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Scrub Jay as the official State Bird would help promote family ties as demonstrated by the cooperative breeding birds which form monogamous pairs and family groups, consisting of the breeding pair and the offspring from previous years; and

**WHEREAS**, the offspring participate in the care of the new young while helpers learn parenting skills prior to raising their own young; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Scrub Jay is also a vital, visible and vocal representative of the diverse and unique ancient scrub ecosystem of the State of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, since the Florida Scrub Jay is only found in the State of Florida, it would be more appropriate for the State of Florida to adopt a bird that is exclusively found in the State of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Scrub Jay has been endorsed by the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine on August 13, 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Scrub Jay has been endorsed as our State Bird by the Board of the St. Johns Audubon Society; and

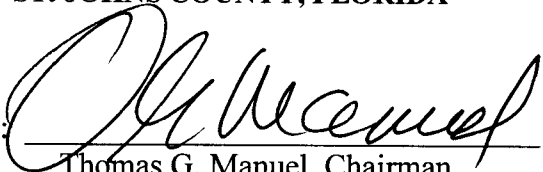
**WHEREAS**, the Florida Scrub Jay has been endorsed as our State Bird by the Board of the N.E. Chapter of the Sierra Club; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Scrub Jay has been endorsed as our State Bird by Defenders of Wildlife, Florida Audubon Society, Florida Sierra Club and Florida Wildlife Federation; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners supports legislation designating the Florida Scrub Jay as Florida's official State Bird.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, State of Florida, this 18 day of March, 2008.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By:   
Thomas G. Manuel, Chairman

**ATTEST:** Cheryl Strickland, Clerk

By:   
Deputy Clerk

Rendition Date: 3/20/08