



Pinyon Jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*)

Size: Body length, 26 - 29 cm; wingspan, approx. 46 cm **Weight:** 99 - 111 g **Habitat:** Arid, high-elevation areas of western North America **Surviving number:** Unknown; declining rapidly



Photographed by Marie Read

WILDLIFE AS CANON SEES IT

Social networker. As a member of a large permanent flock, the pinyon jay applies exceptional social cognition and flexibility to its interactions. It uses at least 15 distinct calls to communicate and mediate relationships. A cooperative breeder, this jay maintains pair bonds over multiple breeding seasons. Year after year, it has acted as a vital seed disperser, but its

primary habitat of pinyon-juniper woodlands is threatened by agriculture and herbicides. Is its active social life now nearing an end?

As Canon sees it, images have the power to raise awareness of the threats facing endangered species and the natural environment, helping us make the world a better place.



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