As a wildlife ecologist, I study populations of wildlife and the types of habitat they use to better understand how to conserve species that are at risk.

**Dr. Marty Raphael**  
Wildlife Ecologist  
Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley  
USDA Forest Service scientist

**Important Scientist Characteristics**  
- Critical thinking  
- Logic  
- Careful observation

**Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer:**  
What is the status and trend of populations of the Marbled Murrelet?

**Technology or equipment used in research:**  
We use small outboard motor boats and survey ocean waters along the coast from these boats to count the murrelets.

**Most Exciting Discovery**  
We found that Marbled Murrelets can fly over 100 miles a day between their nests deep in the forest and the ocean waters where they dive for small fish.

**When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?**  
At an early age I loved going out to hunt for snakes, frogs, lizards, or any other kind of animal I could find. But I didn't think about becoming a professional biologist until much later, at about age 25.