



A wildlife biologist studies wildlife populations, communities, and their habitats.



Meet the Scientist!



<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>
<http://www.scienceinvestigator.org>

Dr. John Kilgo
Wildlife Biologist
Ph.D. University of Georgia
USDA Forest Service scientist

Photo: "We attach radio collars to fawns to better understand how they live. These collars do not cause them harm."



Dr. John Kilgo

Important Scientist Characteristics

- ★ Love of the outdoors (and for me a fascination with wildlife).
- ★ A strong curiosity about wildlife behavior—what they eat, what habitats they live in, and how they affect each other. I believe I am a keen observer of wildlife.

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer:

Can coyotes affect deer populations?

Technology or equipment used in research:

We use night vision equipment (goggles and scopes) to be able to see and capture deer at night using rocket nets and tranquilizer guns. We also use thermal imaging cameras, which detect body heat, to find newborn deer fawns so we can put radio-collars on them.

<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/staff/321>

Most Exciting Discovery

We discovered the reason for recent declines in the numbers of deer in some parts of the Southeast (such as parts of South Carolina). Predation by coyotes, which are not native to the southeastern US, is so extensive in some places that not enough fawns are surviving to adulthood.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

When I was about 12 or 13, I realized I probably wasn't going to make it as a professional baseball player. A friend of my father's was a wildlife biologist and I was enthralled by his stories, so I decided that sounded like the job for me.