



# Meet the Scientist!



<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>

<http://www.scienceinvestigator.org>



Research wildlife biologists study vertebrates and the habitats they occupy to better understand how to ensure their continued presence in an ever-changing world.

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Photo: Our capture and handling techniques are designed to minimize any possible harm to these birds. We need to capture and band individuals to learn what they do and where they go after they are released.



## Mariko Yamasaki

### Important Scientist Characteristics

- ★ Curiosity
- ★ Careful observation
- ★ Critical thinking

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

What does Northern Goshawk nesting habitat look like in New Hampshire?

**Technology or equipment used in research:** We use standard forestry tools (prisms, diameter tapes, clinometers, and global positioning system (GPS) units) to collect our habitat data; computers and specialized software to analyze our data. We also use ancient falconry techniques (dho gazza nets and leather hoods) to safely capture and handle our study birds.

<http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/people/myamasaki>

### Most Exciting Discovery

Learning how different vertebrate species (for example, neo-tropical migratory birds, Northern Goshawks, red-backed salamanders) use managed forest habitats; and especially learning that our banded, Northern Goshawk adult females return to their nesting territories in subsequent years.

### When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

I began on a medical education pathway, but soon realized my interests, enthusiasm, and abilities lay in observing the vertebrate world and their diverse habitats. I was very interested in public service which led to becoming a research wildlife biologist with the Forest Service.