



# Meet the Scientist!



A landscape ecologist studies how different land uses influence and shape ecological communities. I am particularly interested in how birds and forests respond to a changing environment.

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**Wildlife Landscape Ecologist**  
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USDA Forest Service scientist



<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>

<http://www.scienceinvestigator.org>

### **Important Scientist Characteristics:**

For me, it starts with a curiosity about the natural world and how plants and animals interact and live. Then it comes to asking careful questions and remaining persistent to see where the data leads.

**Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer:** How do forests and the climate influence where bird species occur across the eastern U.S.? How do these habitats change in response to climate change and land use change?

### **Technology or equipment used in research:**

I use a wide variety of technology from radio telemetry to track individual birds during migration to powerful computers to understand species across their distributions.

Dr. Matthews is a trained professional. The birds are not harmed and will be released back in to the wild. Never approach or handle wild animals.

### **Most Exciting Discovery**

I have two because they are so different: 1) Even small forest patches in urban areas can be important for birds during migration; and 2) To describe where forest birds live across the eastern U.S., you need to understand relationships between climate and tree species.

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

From an early age I was interested in wildlife and had a desire to understand more about animals. This interest and desire led naturally towards my career in science.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/>

<http://go.osu.edu/StephenMatthews>