



A wildlife ecologist studies native animal species at multiple levels of biological organization, from genetics of wildlife populations to interactions of wildlife with ecosystem processes.

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Important Scientist Characteristics:

I have a keen curiosity and love trying to logically figure how or why things work. I also love observing animals in their natural environment. I have developed skills in using a compass, map, and Global Positioning System (GPS) units so I can find animals where they live.

Example of a simple research question I have tried

to answer: What are the roosting and foraging habitat needs of eastern forest bats?

Technology or equipment used in research:

Bats live in a complex habitat. They have unique adaptations to fly quickly through the night. That makes studying their travels very difficult. We use miniature radio transmitters that we attach with short-lived glue like a mini-backpack. We listen for the signals with receiving antennas and follow the bats as they move through their nightly activities.

: Most Exciting Discovery

: We discovered that even very small
: bats that weigh only 10 grams travel
: long distances every night. We found
: some species will travel 30 or more
: miles, one way, in their quest for
: food. This includes mother bats that
: have to feed themselves and return
: to their roost to feed their young
: periodically through the night.

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

: I became interested
: in studying birds when I was 7
: years old; soon after that I became
: equally as interested in mammals,
: amphibians, and reptiles. I knew
: before I was a teenager that I
: wanted to do some kind of work
: studying wildlife.

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