

# Meet the Scientist!

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http://www.naturalinguirer.org

# Important Scientist Characteristics

animal species are rare, why

some are at risk, and how

threatened or endangered species and ecosystem

functions can be conserved

and restored.

I have published poetry, done art work, composed classical music, written philosophy, studied linguistics, history, and archeoastronomy. This diversity gives a unique perspective on conducting science by metaphor: that is, seeing one thing as another, and exploring the implications of that similarity to help create new scientific theories and approaches.

**USDA Forest Service scientist** 

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

How do climate change, environmental conditions, and human activities affect the future populations of polar bears and walruses in the high Arctic? How do changes in climate policy and other activities help avoid the decline or extinction of polar bears and walruses in the high Arctic?

#### Technology or equipment used in research:

I use computer modeling, based on experts' knowledge, to predict the future of rare or at-risk species, and to find new ways to analyze how ecosystems function and provide resources of interest to people.

# Most Exciting Discovery

Finding a potentially new species of owl in the Congo River Basin, based on my studies of its calls throughout Africa.

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

I knew I wanted to be a scientist in the 4th grade when I got my first telescope, and when I was catching snakes, lizards, and salamanders in the woods behind my house.