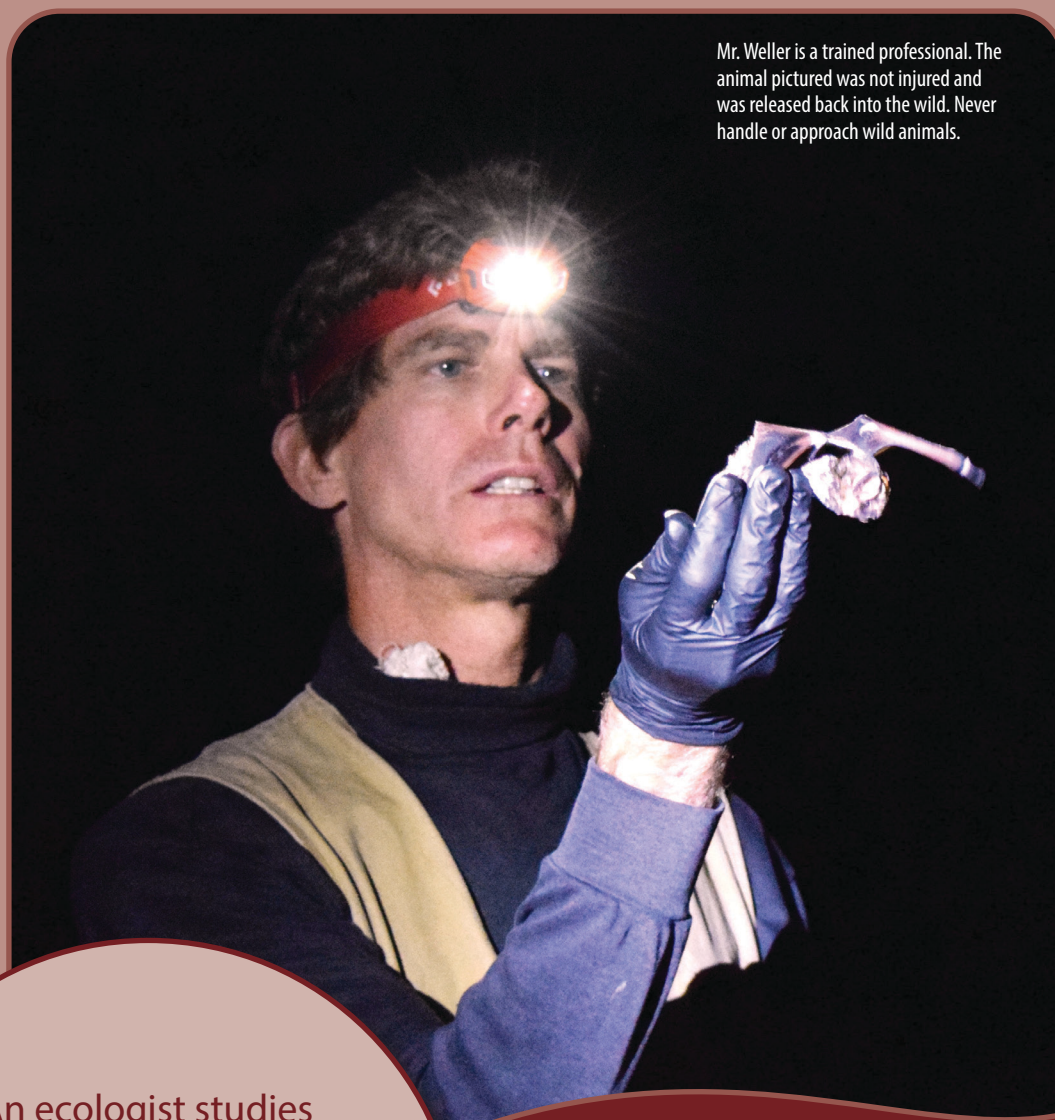




# Meet the Scientist!



<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>



Mr. Weller is a trained professional. The animal pictured was not injured and was released back into the wild. Never handle or approach wild animals.

## Ted Weller

Ecologist  
M.S., Humboldt State University  
USDA Forest Service scientist

An ecologist studies the interaction between animals, their environment, and the weather. In my work, I study how those interactions change among seasons.

### Important Scientist Characteristics:

An inquisitive mind and critical thinking are the biggest contributions to my work. There are questions everywhere that can be answered through science. I ask small questions everyday.

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

Which species of bats are active in my area during winter? To answer this question, we used echolocation detectors that monitor bats at night in all kinds of weather. We also bundle up in warm clothes and catch bats to get more detailed information about them.

### Technology or equipment used in research:

I use echolocation detectors to eavesdrop on the calls of bats flying in darkness. Oftentimes we don't know bats are around without the echolocation detector. By converting recordings to a visual display we can identify which species of bat produced the calls.

### Most Exciting Discovery

We were able to track the movements of a hoary bat over 1,000 kilometers in three states during a single month. No one before had been able to track movements of small bats over these distances or time periods.

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

I only started thinking of myself as a scientist about 15 years ago. Math was always fun and easy for me. That led me to become an engineer before I transitioned to biology.

<https://www.fs.fed.us/research/people/profile.php?alias=tweller>