



Photo by Layne Kennedy

As a wildlife ecologist, I study wildlife populations and their relationships with their physical and living environment to identify what might cause the populations to increase or decrease. I apply these research findings to help endangered species' populations to increase.

Dr. Joseph Wunderle
Conservation Biologist
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Dr. Wunderle is pictured on the right with his team as they complete wildlife research.

<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>



Dr. Joseph Wunderle



Important Scientist Characteristics

- ★ Curiosity
- ★ Careful observation
- ★ Good record-keeping, logic
- ★ Critical thinking
- ★ Patience (animals are stubborn)
- ★ Spanish

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer: What is the winter habitat of the Kirtland's Warbler, and how is that habitat produced? The Kirtland's Warbler is an endangered migratory bird.

Technology or equipment used in research:

We use radio telemetry to follow Kirtland's Warbler, and study their movements and habitat use. This involves placing small radio transmitters on each bird and locating them using a radio receiver that detects the transmitter's signal.

• Most Exciting Discovery

- In the Bahamas, Kirtland's Warblers
- use habitats disturbed by people after
- they have removed vegetation by
- bulldozing, grazing goats, or burning.
- The warblers use these habitats because
- they eat fruits of shrubs that grow in
- these disturbed sites. The availability of
- these habitats will ensure that Kirtland's
- Warblers have suitable places to spend
- the winter, even after a hurricane.

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

- I was 12 years old when
- I learned that my hobbies of bird
- watching and keeping wild animals
- could become a career. At that age I
- learned that zoology and ecology were
- professions, but required that I study
- hard in school.

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