

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



As an  
ornithologist,  
I study disturbance  
ecology, climate  
change, conservation and  
management of Neotropical  
resident and migratory  
bird communities and  
invasive species.

**Dr. Wayne J. Arendt**  
Research Ornithologist  
Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison  
USDA Forest Service scientist

<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>



## Dr. Wayne J. Arendt



### Important Scientist Characteristics:

To competently carry out quantitative research using the scientific method, scientists must have and demonstrate critical thinking, curiosity, creativity, careful observation, good record-keeping, mathematical prowess and, especially, logic.

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

What life history traits does the Pearly-eyed thrasher have that make it successful in predation of and competition against the endangered Puerto Rican parrot? My study of a Caribbean predatory bird, the Pearly-eyed thrasher, revealed that the thrasher is an example of an ecological generalist. An ecological generalist is successful due to quick dispersal, wide distribution, and lack of special needs for food and shelter.

### Technology or equipment used in research:

I use Swavorski SLC 10x42 binoculars for avian surveys and species identification. I use a Bushnell Scout DX Laser Rangefinder, which uses a laser beam, to determine distance to an object. I also use various graphics and software programs to analyze and present the results derived from data collected in the field.

### Most Exciting Discovery

- During a two-decade study of
- the effects of ectoparasites on
- birds, I revealed several parts
- of the life cycle of a tropical
- fly. I found out about host-
- parasite interactions, impact
- on nestling bird growth
- and development, and the
- physical effects of larvae on
- the nestling birds' internal
- tissues stemming from the
- disease it carries.

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

- I knew I wanted to study birds
- from early childhood. While
- I was in middle school, I was
- encouraged to become an
- ornithologist by my biology
- teacher, Mr. Ted F. Platt.