



# Meet the Scientist!

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

A landscape ecologist studies how different land uses influence and shape ecological communities. I am particularly interested in how birds and forests respond to a changing environment.

**Dr. Steve Matthews**  
Wildlife Landscape Ecologist  
Ph.D., Ohio State University  
USDA Forest Service scientist



<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>

## Important Scientist Characteristics

For my work, it starts with a curiosity about the natural world and how plants and animals interact and live. Then it comes to asking careful questions and remaining persistent to see where the data leads.

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

How do forests and the climate influence where bird species occur across the Eastern U.S.? How do these habitats change in response to climate change and land use change?

## Technology or equipment used in research:

I use a wide variety of technology from radio telemetry to track individual birds during migration to powerful computers to understand species across their distributions.

## Most Exciting Discovery

I have two exciting discoveries because they are so different:  
1) Even small forest patches in urban areas can be important for birds during migration; and  
2) To describe where forest birds live across the Eastern U.S., you need to understand relationships between climate and tree species.

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

From an early age I was interested in wildlife and had a desire to understand more about animals. This interest and desire led naturally towards my career in science.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/>

<http://go.osu.edu/StephenMatthews>