

A photograph of Dr. Steve Matthews, a man with glasses and a dark cap, holding a small brown bird in his hands. He is looking down at the bird with a gentle expression. The background is a sun-dappled forest.

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>



Dr. Steve Matthews



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>