



Ms. Yamasaki is pictured on the left.
Ms. Yamasaki is a trained professional.
The bird pictured was not harmed and
will be released back into the wild. Never
approach or handle wild animals.

Research
wildlife biologists
study vertebrates and
the habitats they occupy
to better understand how
to ensure their continued
presence in an
ever-changing
world.

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Mariko Yamasaki



Important Scientist Characteristics

- ★ Curiosity
- ★ Careful observation
- ★ Critical thinking

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer: What does Northern Goshawk nesting habitat look like in New Hampshire?

Technology or equipment used in research:

We use standard forestry tools (e.g., prisms, diameter tapes, clinometers, and Global Positioning System (GPS) units) to collect our habitat data and computers and specialized software to analyze our data. We also use ancient falconry techniques like those seen in my picture (dho gazza nets and leather hoods) to safely capture and handle our study birds.

Most Exciting Discovery

- It's exciting to learn how
- different vertebrate species (e.g.,
- Neotropical migratory birds,
- Northern Goshawks, red-backed
- salamanders) use managed
- forest habitats. It's especially
- exciting learning that our banded,
- Northern Goshawk adult females
- return to their nesting territories
- in subsequent years.

- **When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?** I began on a medical
- education pathway, but soon
- realized my interests, enthusiasm,
- and abilities lay in observing the
- vertebrate world and their diverse
- habitats. I was very interested
- in public service which led to
- becoming a research wildlife
- biologist with the Forest Service.

<http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/people/myamasaki>