

# **J. Michael Scott, Ph.D., Senior Scientist**

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**NAME:** Scott, J. Michael

**Rank or Title :** Senior Scientist, U.S. Geological Survey  
Leader, Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit  
Professor of Fish and Wildlife Resources, University of Idaho

## **Education**

B.S. Biology, San Diego State University, 1966  
M.A. Biology, San Diego State University, 1969  
Ph.D. Zoology, Oregon State University, 1973

## **Biographical Sketch**

From 1974 to 1984, Dr. J. Michael Scott served as a Research Biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Mauna Loa Field Station, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. This was his first assignment with the U.S. Department of Interior, the agency he continues to serve today as a Senior Scientist with the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey. From 1984 to 1986, he served as Project Leader of the Condor Research Center in Ventura, California. In 1986 he was appointed to the position he holds at present, Leader of the Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit in Moscow, Idaho. In addition, he is a Professor in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources at the University of Idaho, where he pioneered the Gap Analysis Program and served as Program Leader from 1989-1997.

Dr. Scott's dedication and success in developing the Gap Analysis Program is indicative of his professional life and goals. By comparing information on distribution of vertebrates, invertebrates, and native vegetation with the distribution of managed areas, the Gap program enables land managers to determine how many ecosystem types and species are under protected. The underlying assumption is that many species will be threatened or endangered in the future unless steps are taken to protect them and their habitats, and that the time to protect species is when they are common.

Dr. Scott and his graduate students are currently conducting research on topics as diverse as recovery of endangered species; diversity, integrity, and health of wildlife populations on National Wildlife Refuges; and effectiveness of current nature reserves in protecting the biodiversity of America.

Dr. Scott has authored and co-authored more than 200 journal articles, books, book chapters, and monographs on topics as wide-ranging as reserve identification, selection and design; tuna schooling behavior; endangered species recovery, and avian population estimation. He co-authored *Forest bird communities of the Hawaiian Islands: their dynamics, ecology, and conservation* (1986), which received The Wildlife Society's Best Monograph Award. In addition, Dr. Scott has edited seven books including: *Estimating number of terrestrial birds* (1986, with C.J. Ralph), *Evolution, ecology, conservation and management of Hawaiian birds: A vanishing avifauna* (2001, with S. Conant and C. Van Ripper III), *Predicting species occurrences: Issues of accuracy and scale* (2002, with Pat Hegland and others), *The Endangered Species Act at 30, Vol. I: Renewing the conservation promise* (2005, with D. Goble and F.W. Davis), and *The Endangered Species Act at Thirty, Vol. II: Conserving biodiversity in human dominated landscapes* (2006, with D. Goble and F.W. Davis).

Dr. Scott's professional accomplishments have been recognized by the Society for Conservation Biology with both the Distinguished Achievement Award and the Edward T. La Roe III Memorial Award. He received the U.S. Department of Interior's Distinguished Service Award, 2006: the highest Award given to career employee. He received a Twentieth Century Environmental Achiever Award at the Ninth Lukac's Symposium. He is an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Ornithologist's Union. He received the American Ornithologist's Union 2006 Conservation Award, an International award presented for extraordinary scientific contributions to the conservation, restoration, or preservation of birds and their habitats by an individual. Dr. Scott is a past President of both The Cooper Ornithological Society and the Pacific Seabird Group, and has served on the Boards of a number of professional societies and the science advisory boards of several non-profit conservation organizations.