Zoologists and Wildlife Biologists

SOC: 19-1023 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

$72,860	18,200	+2.0%
Median Salary	Employment	Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Bachelor's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 8.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

8.4/10 - Excellent work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	6.2/10	**Investigative**	9.4/10
Artistic	5.6/10	**Social**	6.4/10
Enterprising	4.8/10	**Conventional**	6.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Attention to detail, Communication skills, Critical-thinking skills, Interpersonal skills, Outdoor skills, Problem-solving skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Zoologists and Wildlife Biologists study **animals and wildlife, their behaviors, habitats, and interactions with ecosystems**. They conduct research, collect data, and develop conservation strategies to protect species and manage natural resources. Their work is critical in environmental preservation, wildlife management, and ecological research.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy scientific research, outdoor work, and studying animal behavior and ecosystems.

What Do Zoologists and Wildlife Biologists Do?

These professionals observe, track, and study animals, analyze ecological data, and develop programs for species conservation and habitat management.

Common responsibilities include:

- Conducting field studies and observing animal behavior
- Collecting and analyzing biological and environmental data
- Monitoring wildlife populations and habitat conditions
- Developing and implementing conservation and management plans
- Preparing research reports, publications, and presentations
- Advising policymakers, conservation agencies, and the public
- Collaborating with researchers, environmental organizations, and government agencies

Key Areas of Zoology and Wildlife Biology

Zoologists and wildlife biologists may specialize in particular species, ecosystems, or research methods:

- Field Research and Observation: Studying animals in natural habitats
- Population and Habitat Management: Tracking species numbers and ecological conditions
- Conservation Planning: Developing strategies to protect endangered species
- Ecological Data Analysis: Using statistical and computational tools to interpret research
- Education and Public Outreach: Communicating findings and promoting conservation awareness

Skills and Abilities Needed

These professionals combine research, analytical, and practical skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal education and research experience:

- Bachelor’s Degree (minimum): Wildlife biology, zoology, ecology, or related field
- Field and Research Experience: Internships, volunteer work, or research projects
- Master’s or Doctoral Degree (common for research or management roles): Advanced study in specialized areas
- Certification (optional): Wildlife or environmental certifications
- Continuing Education: Staying current with ecological research, conservation practices, and environmental regulations

Where Do Zoologists and Wildlife Biologists Work?

They are employed in organizations involved in research, conservation, and environmental management:

- Research Institutions and Universities
- Government and Wildlife Agencies
- Nonprofit Conservation Organizations
- National Parks and Protected Areas

- Environmental Consulting and Private Firms

Work environments include laboratories, field sites, natural habitats, and office settings.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires scientific expertise, patience, and adaptability. Zoologists and wildlife biologists must conduct fieldwork, analyze complex ecological data, and develop effective conservation strategies.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy studying animals, ecosystems, and environmental interactions
- Are curious, observant, and analytical
- Can work in outdoor, variable conditions
- Have strong research and communication skills
- Want a career contributing to wildlife conservation and ecological understanding

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in biology, ecology, environmental science, and mathematics
- Participate in fieldwork, internships, or volunteer programs
- Develop skills in data collection, analysis, and research techniques
- Explore undergraduate and graduate programs in wildlife biology or zoology
- Gain hands-on experience with wildlife monitoring, ecological surveys, or conservation projects

Zoologists and wildlife biologists study and protect animal species and ecosystems, advancing scientific knowledge and supporting conservation efforts.
