

NATURALISTS TIMELINE

	CATEGORY	NAME	BIRTH	DEATH	NOTES	Curret Age or Age at Death (as of 2020)	1620	1630	1640	1650	1660	1670	1680	1690	1700	1710	1720	1730	1740	1750	1760	1770	1780	1790	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010			
1	Naturalist & Author	Aristotle	385 BC	323 BC	One of the founders of natural study. Many observations on birds.	62																																											
2	Naturalist & Author	Pliny the Elder	24	79	Published large, diverse book on a wide variety of natural history topics. Died during the eruption of Vesuvius.	55																																											
3	Naturalist & Author	Conrad Gessner	1516	1565	Promoted observation where previous naturalists had relied on authors of the classics.	49																																											
4	Naturalist & Author	John Ray	1627	1705	Established species as basic unit of taxonomy	78																																											
5	Naturalist & Author	Antonie van Leeuwenhoek	1632	1723	First to observe microscopic organisms.	91																																											
6	Painter, Ornithologist & Author	Mark Catesby	1683	1749	First to inventory, paint and publish on birds of North America.	66																																											
7	Naturalist & Author	Georges-Louis Leclerc, Comte de Buffon	1707	1788	His ground-breaking <i>Histoire Naturelle</i> contained detailed descriptions of birds.	81																																											
8	Naturalist & Author	Carl Linnaeus	1707	1778	Established simple and orderly taxonomic naming system of genus-species still used today.	71																																											
9	Field Naturalist & Author	Gilbert White	1720	1793	Father of field ornithology and ecology. Promoted field observation and identification through calls and songs.	73																																											
10	Painter, Ornithologist & Author	William Bartram	1739	1823	Traveled widely in American Southeast writing and painting natural history observations.	84																																											
11	Ornithologist & Taxonomist	Louis Pierre Vieillot	1748	1830	Taxonomist, ornithologist and author of the first scientific descriptions and Linnaean names of a number of birds, of West Indies and North and South American.	82																																											
12	Naturalist & Author	Thomas Bewick	1753	1828	Woodcarver & engraver who wrote <i>A History of British Birds</i> , a forerunner of all modern field guides.	75																																											
13	Painter, Ornithologist & Author	Alexander Wilson	1766	1813	Father of American Ornithology. Predecessor of Audubon. Wrote and illustrated American Ornithology covering 268 birds of North America, 30 years before Audubon.	47																																											
14	Naturalist & Author	Alexander von Humboldt	1769	1859	Travelled extensively in the Americas. Published multiple volume descriptions of his findings for the first time from a modern scientific point of view.	90																																											
15	Ornithologist & Author	George Ord	1781	1866	Collected with and became friend of Alexander Wilson's. After Wilson's death Ord became a vocal proponent for Wilson and an opponent of John James Audubon. He exposed multiple examples of plagiarism by Audubon.	85																																											
16	Painter, Ornithologist & Author	John James Audubon	1785	1851	<i>The Birds of America</i> , is considered one of the finest ornithological works ever completed. Audubon also falsified discoveries and committed plagerism to promote his career.	66																																											
17	Ornithologist & Author	Thomas Nuttall	1786	1859	Published the first field guide for North American birds. Collected many plants and animals.	73																																											
18	Field Naturalist	Thomas Say	1787	1834	American entomologist, conchologist, and herpetologist. Provided first descriptions of many birds species on the Long Expedition of 1819-1820.	47																																											
19	Naturalist & Author	John Bachman, Reverend	1790	1874	Collaborated with Audubon on <i>Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America</i> . Writings were influential in the development of theory of evolution.	84																																											

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24	Field Naturalist	John Kirk Townsend	1809	1851	Ornithologist on the Wyeth Expedition to Oregon in 1834. Collected 74 of the 508 species discussed by Audubon.	42																				
25	Audubon Associate	Isaac Sprague	1811	1895	Assistant to Audubon on an ornithological expedition up the Missouri River in 1843.	84																				
26	Audubon Associate	John Bell	1812	1899	Assistant to Audubon on an ornithological expedition up the Missouri River in 1843. Taught taxidermy to Theodore Roosevelt.	87																				
27	Ornithologist & Taxidermist	John Cassin	1813	1869	A careful and talented taxonomist, Cassin named 198 birds not previously described by Wilson or Audubon.	56																				
28	Other Figure of Conservation & Natural History	Henry David Thoreau	1817	1862	American essayist, poet, and philosopher best known for his book <i>Walden</i> , a reflection on simple living in natural surroundings.	45																				
29	Field Collector	Samuel Washington Woodhouse	1821	1904	American surgeon, explorer and naturalist. Doctor and naturalist on the Sitgreaves Expedition from San Antonio to San Diego.	83																				
30	Field Collector	Adolphus Heerman	1821	1865	American doctor, naturalist, ornithologist, and explorer. Travelled throughout the U.S. collecting samples and cataloging various species of birds.	44																				
31	Other Figure of Conservation & Natural History	Gregor Mendel	1822	1884	Demonstrated basic attributes of genetics.	62																				
32	Biologist	Alfred Russel Wallace	1823	1913	Independently conceived the theory of evolution through natural selection. Published with Darwin. Proponent of evolutionary theory throughout his life.	90																				
33	Field Collector	William Gambel	1823	1849	American naturalist, ornithologist, and botanist. Collected specimens with Nuttall and on his own.	26																				
34	Ornithologist & Museum Curator	Spencer Fullerton Baird	1823	1887	Baird was the first curator at the Smithsonian Institution. Served as assistant Secretary & Secretary from 1850 to 1887. Dedicated to expanding the natural history collections of the Smithsonian.	64																				
35	Field Collector	John Xantus	1825	1894	Hungarian exile and zoologist who collected and named many previously unrecognized animals and plants in the southwestern U.S. and Mexico.	69																				
36	Field Collector	William Hammond	1828	1900	American military physician and neurologist who collected specimens for Baird.	72																				
37	Taxidermist & Field Collector	Martha Maxwell	1831	1881	American naturalist, artist and taxidermist who helped found modern taxidermy, particularly with her pioneering diorama displays.	50																				
38	Field Collector	Charles Bendire	1836	1897	US Army soldier, ornithologist and oologist. His private collection of 8,000 eggs formed the basis of the egg collection of the Smithsonian Institution.	61																				
39	Other Figure of Conservation & Natural History	John Muir	1838	1914	Scottish-American naturalist, author, environmental philosopher, botanist, zoologist, glaciologist, and early advocate for the preservation of wilderness. His writings have been read by millions.	76																				
40	Ornithologist & Author	Elliot Coues	1842	1899	American army surgeon, historian, ornithologist, and author. In 1872 he published his <i>Key to North American Birds</i> , which helped promote the systematic study of ornithology in America. An AOU founder.	57																				
41	Ornithologist & AOU	William Dutcher	1846	1920	Businessman, amateur bird photographer, ornithologist and keen proponent of bird conservation. Longtime Treasurer of AOU.	74																				
42	Conservationist & Author	George Bird Grinnell	1849	1938	Anthropologist, historian, naturalist, and writer who attended school in Audubon's mansion. Original founder of the Audubon Society.	89																				

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43	Ornithologist	Robert Ridgeway	1850	1929	Ornithologist who served as the first full-time curator of birds at the Smithsonian Institution, a post he held from 1880 when he was appointed by Baird to his death in 1929.	79																				
44	Ornithologist	William Brewster	1851	1919	American ornithologist, naturalist and conservationist who co-founded the AOU.	68																				
45	Other Figure of Conservation & Natural History	Teddy Roosevelt	1858	1919	American statesman, conservationist, naturalist, historian and writer, who served as the 26th president of the US.	61																				
46	Ornithologist & Author	Florence Mirriam Bailey	1863	1948	Ornithologist and nature writer. She organized early Audubon Society chapters and was an activist for bird protection. Traveled in and wrote about Texas.	85																				
47	Ornithologist & Author	Frank M. Chapman	1864	1945	Originator of the Christmas Bird Count.	81																				
48	Ornithologist & Author	Arthur Cleveland Bent	1866	1954	Ornithologist notable for his encyclopedic 21-volume work, <i>Life Histories of North American Birds</i> , published 1919-1968 and completed posthumously.	88																				
49	Ornithologist & Author	Harry Church Oberholser	1870	1963	Ornithologist & museum curator who compiled 12,000 pages of manuscript covering 50 years of findings on birds related to Texas. The monumental two-volume work <i>The Bird Life of Texas</i> was published 11 years after his death.	93																				
50	Ornithological Organization	The Nuttall Ornithological Club	1873	2020	First organization in North America devoted to ornithology. Members include a "who's who" of influential ornithologists and naturalists.	147																				
51	Painter, Ornithologist	Louis Agassiz Fuytes	1874	1927	American ornithologist, illustrator and artist who set the rigorous and current-day standards for ornithological art and naturalist depiction. He provided the illustrations for Oberholser's <i>Bird Life of Texas</i> . Died in collision with train.	53																				
52	Texas Writer & Folklorist	Roy Bedichek	1878	1959	He along with J. Frank Dobie and Walter Prescott Webb, (sometimes grandly called "the triumvirate") were intellectuals and writers who asserted the values of the life of the mind at a time when Texans, living in a still-close-to-the-frontier society. Depicted in <i>Philosopher's Rock</i> statue at Barton Springs.	81																				
53	Other Figure of Conservation & Natural History	Franklin D. Roosevelt	1882	1945	Roosevelt had a lifelong interest in the environment and conservation starting with forestry on his family estate. As the 32nd president, he was active in expanding, funding, and promoting the National Park and National Forest systems. The CCC also built 13,000 miles of trails, planted two billion trees, and upgraded 125,000 miles of dirt roads.	63																				
54	Ornithologist & Author	Arthur A. Allan	1885	1964	Ornithologist who promoted ornithology and bird sound recording over a long career at Cornell University. Worked on the founding of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.	79																				
55	Texas Field Birder	Connie Hagar	1886	1973	Spent much of her life as an amateur bird-watcher in Rockport, Texas, and gained the respect of professional ornithologists. Doing much to "put Texas on the birding map"; she added over twenty new species to the avifauna list of the state and was the first to report numerous migratory birds, including several thought extinct.	87																				
56	Other Figure of Conservation & Natural History	Rachel Carson	1907	1964	Her book <i>Silent Spring</i> (1962) warned of the dangers to natural systems from pesticides such as DDT, and questioned the scope and direction of modern science.	57																				
57	Painter & Field Guide Author	Roger Tory Peterson	1908	1996	Ornithologist, author, conservationist, and wildlife artist whose field guides did much in the United States and Europe to stimulate interest in bird study.	88																				
58	Ornithologist & Author	Chandler S. Robbins	1918	2017	Ornithologist whose contributions to the field include co-authorship of an influential field guide to birds, as well as organizing the North American Breeding Bird Survey.	99																				

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