

# SUTER SCIENCE SEMINARS 2025-26

## Things We Miss When We Take for Granted What We [Don't] Know - Lessons From a Few Years of Monarch Butterfly Research

**Lee Brown, PhD**

*Assistant Professor of Biology  
James Madison University  
Harrisonburg VA*



**Friday, February 6, 2026**

**10:15 a.m. • Suter Science Center room 106**

*Monarch butterflies are among the most iconic organisms in the insect world, but their populations have drastically declined due to habitat loss, pesticides and climate change. Initiatives to mitigate declines include widespread habitat restoration campaigns and the use of novel technologies to understand continental movements. Dr. Brown presents research from her lab since 2023 investigating the use of radio telemetry for tracking monarch movements, and the conservation-relevant discoveries that have emerged. While monarch butterflies are one of the most well-studied insects in the animal kingdom, it is easy to jump to conclusions and overlook important considerations in our rush to save this beloved species.*

Dr. Lee Brown is an Assistant Professor of Biology at James Madison University. Her conservation-focused research has centered around movement and demography of bird and butterfly populations in human-dominated and natural landscapes. She received her PhD at Stony Brook University and held positions at Harvard Forest, the University of Georgia, the University of Connecticut and Tufts University before landing in Harrisonburg, VA where she resides with her daughter, two conservation detection dog wannabes, and a mischievous kitty.



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