

SUTER SCIENCE SEMINARS 2026-27

Disease Status, Occupancy, and Relative Activity of Vulnerable Bat Species in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic United States

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10:15 a.m. • Science Center, room 106

*White-nose Syndrome (WNS), caused by the fungal pathogen *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, has led to catastrophic declines in several North American bat species, including losses exceeding 90% in Little Brown Bats (*Myotis lucifugus*). Despite these declines, remnant populations persist across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, raising key questions about their ongoing vulnerability to emerging disease, habitat associations in a post-WNS landscape, and potential signs of stabilization or recovery. By integrating disease surveillance and long-term acoustic monitoring of Little Brown Bats and other vulnerable bat species, it is possible to evaluate patterns of occupancy and activity and the ecological drivers influencing bat persistence across multiple spatial scales.*

Dr. Megan Moran is a wildlife ecologist who completed her Ph.D. in Fish and Wildlife Conservation at Virginia Tech and is now an Assistant Professor of Environmental Science at Eastern Mennonite University in the Department of Natural Sciences. Her research focuses on wildlife population and disease dynamics, with a particular emphasis on bats affected by White-nose Syndrome. Using long-term acoustic monitoring and spatial modeling methods, she investigates patterns of bat occupancy, activity, and persistence across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. In her free time Megan enjoys climbing, hiking, camping, and all things outdoors.



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