

Lightning Talk

# Western Monarch Science Initiatives

---

Emily May on Behalf of Isis Howard

Xerces Society



# Western Monarch Science Initiatives

## *Community Science*



### Western Monarch Count

Surveying overwintering western monarchs & their habitat to track numbers & site condition over time.

[WesternMonarchCount.org](https://WesternMonarchCount.org)



### Western Monarch Milkweed Mapper

Documenting monarch & milkweed observations spring through fall in the western U.S.

[MonarchMilkweedMapper.org](https://MonarchMilkweedMapper.org)



### Monarch Nectar Database

Collecting observations of monarchs nectaring on native plants to inform habitat restoration efforts.

[Xerces.org/monarch-nectar-plants](https://Xerces.org/monarch-nectar-plants)



# Western Monarch Science Initiatives

## *Radio Telemetry*

- ❖ Studying migration and overwintering movement with ultralight radio tag technology. *\*Detectable with Project Monarch app!*
- ❖ Expanding network of radio (Motus) towers to track western migration.
- ❖ Upcoming study to tag and track overwintering monarchs.



Photo: The Xerces Society

# Western Monarch Science Initiatives

## *Overwintering Science & Collaboration*



Modified near infrared camera and wind data logger set-up at Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, November 2023.

- ❖ Established a movement ecology working group.
- ❖ Collaborating with Kyle Nessen who is studying how wind impacts monarchs.
  - Guide restoration efforts

Contact us at [monarchs@xerces.org](mailto:monarchs@xerces.org) for more information about our work.

