



Press Release

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BrockU researcher available to speak to environmental impacts affecting migrating species

A story in today's *Globe & Mail* notes, "The latest count of monarch butterflies overwintering in Mexico suggests the insect's North American migratory population has hit a new low and may be at risk of disappearing altogether."

According to Brock University sustainability scientist and researcher Liette Vasseur, the monarch is the canary in the coalmine.

"It's not only the monarch," she says. "We're seeing the same thing in many other migratory species that are also in decline including birds. It's a wicked problem."

Vasseur studies climate change adaptation, environmental health, sustainable development and community-based ecosystem management.

She is available to news media to discuss reasons for the declining number of migrating monarchs in Mexico and other species worldwide. Reasons include urban development, habitat loss, pollution, extreme weather events and pesticides.

But it's not all bad news. Vasseur can also speak to what can be done to reverse this worrying trend such as reducing pesticides and pollutants, and restoring natural habitats like milkweed.

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