



As an urban wildlife ecologist, I study how animals in cities interact with their habitat and how people interact with their local wildlife.

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Dr. Susannah Lerman



Important Scientist Characteristics:

Critical thinking, boundless enthusiasm, endless curiosity, and perseverance are all important to my career as a scientist.

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer: What can we do to help support strong bird and bee populations in our backyards and city parks?

Technology or equipment used in research:

I use binoculars to study bird behavior. I also use mist nets to safely capture birds. Once I capture a bird, I can tag it and track its survival over the years. To study bees, I place bee bowls in yards. Bee bowls are small plastic cups filled with soapy water which catch bees. I then use a microscope to identify the bees. I also work with citizen scientists, including students, to help with my research.

• Most Exciting Discovery

• I discovered that the small choices we
• make in our yards and parks make a
• big difference for songbirds and native
• bees. These small choices include the
• types of plants we grow in our yards
• and parks and how we care for those
• plants.

• When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

• I became an obsessed birdwatcher
• in my early 20s. I was fascinated with
• how birds used different habitats,
• especially during migration. I wanted
• to ensure that all people had the
• same opportunities to experience the
• wonders of nature. More importantly,
• becoming a scientist was how I could
• help with bird conservation.