

# Ellwood Mesa Monarch Butterflies

## Historic and Recent Patterns

### Historic Patterns at Ellwood

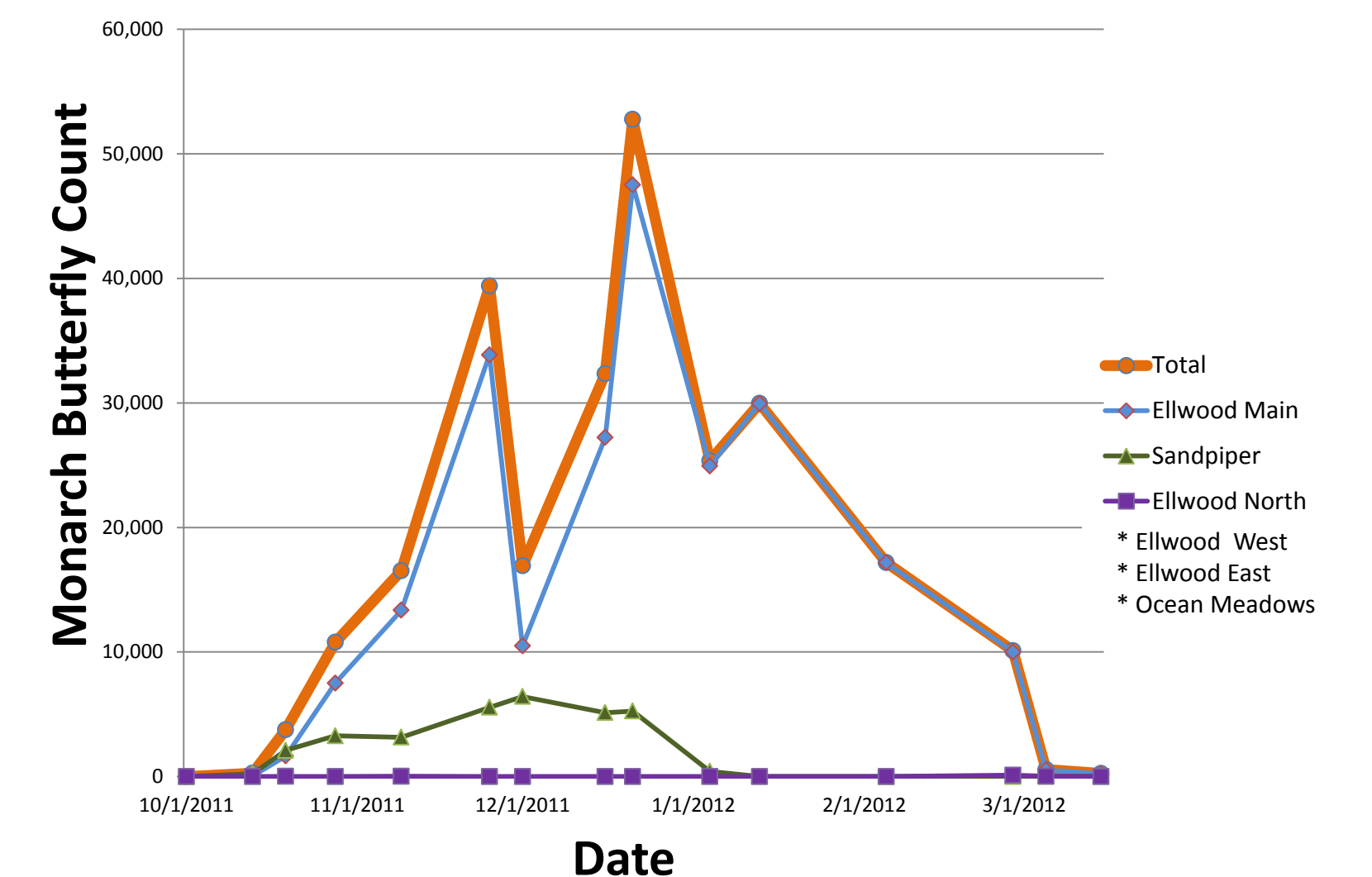
- Eucalyptus forests planted in late 1800s/early 1900s
- Monarchs likely used these forests to aggregate at that time; first records are from 1950s.
- Monarchs usually arrive at Ellwood in October to overwinter.
- There are 8 historic aggregation sites around Ellwood Mesa – Sperling Preserve Open Space.

### Current Patterns at Ellwood

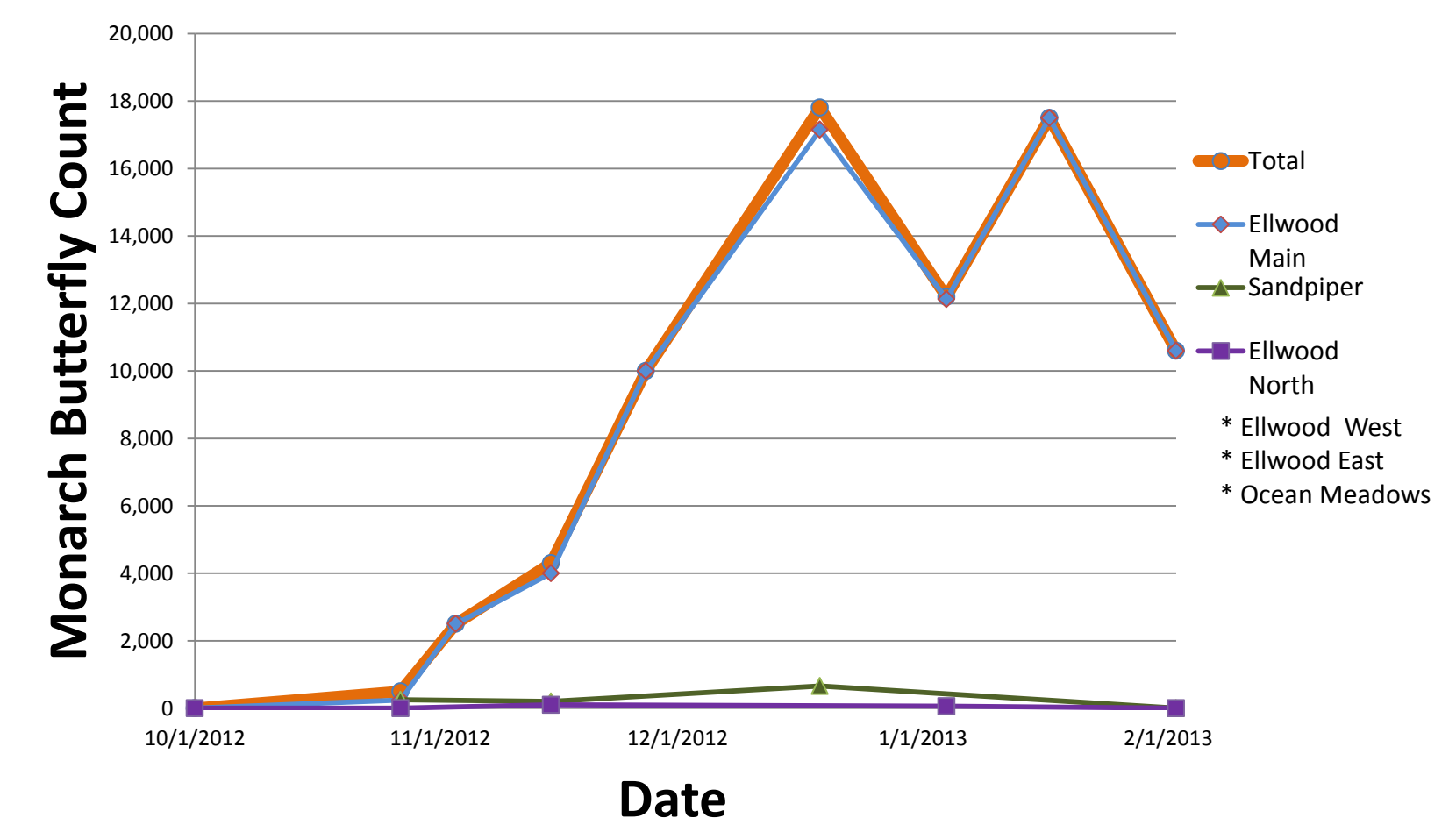
- Monarchs are found at 4 sites in recent years
- Decline at other sites attributed to:
  - Changes in site tree & understory configuration
  - Other unfavorable conditions (i.e. invasive vines, debris, etc.)
- Over 50,000 monarchs at Ellwood in 2011
- Goleta Butterfly Grove (Ellwood Main) continues to harbor the most monarchs

### Recent Counts By Aggregation Site

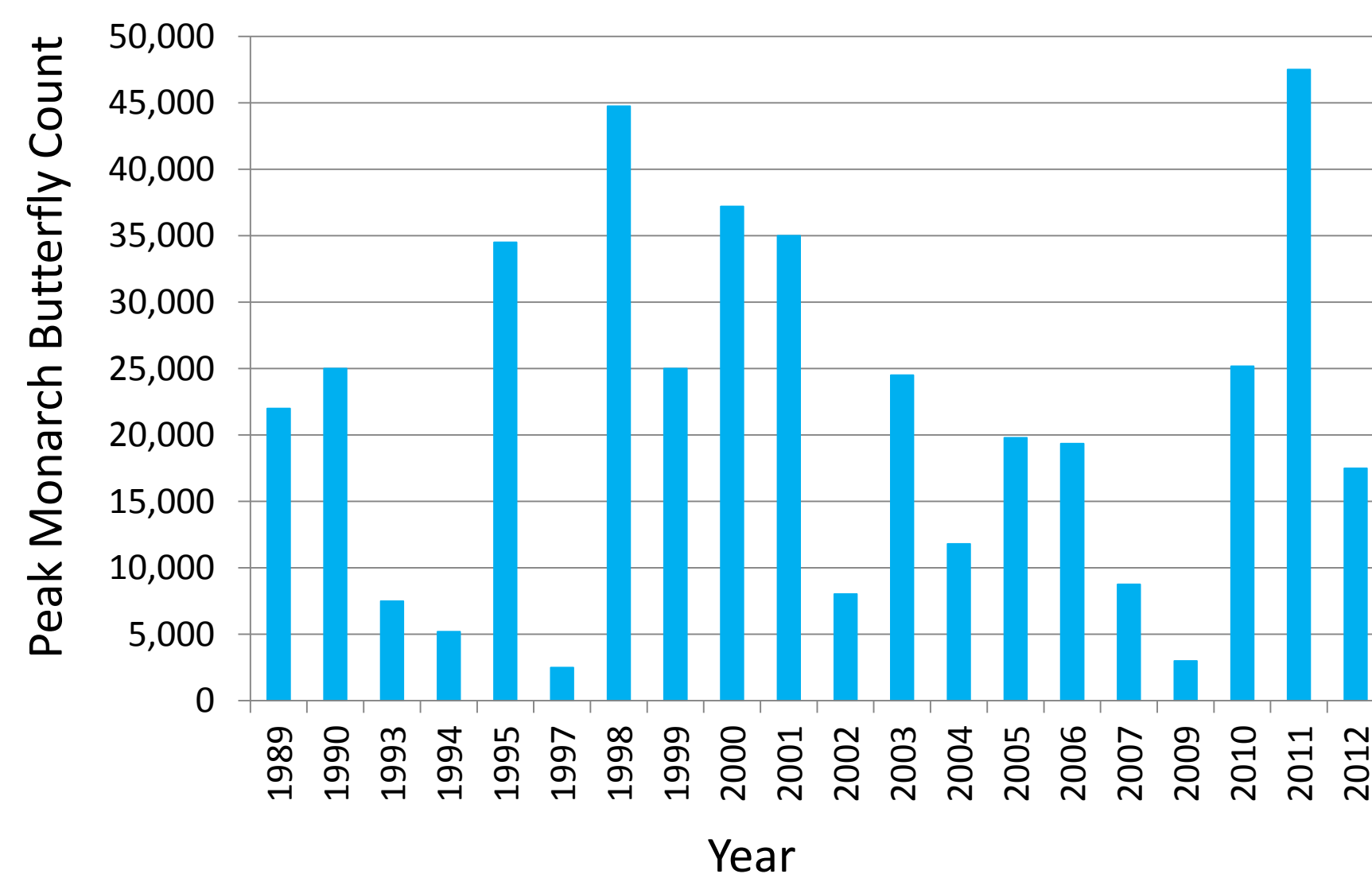
#### 2011-2012



#### 2012-2013

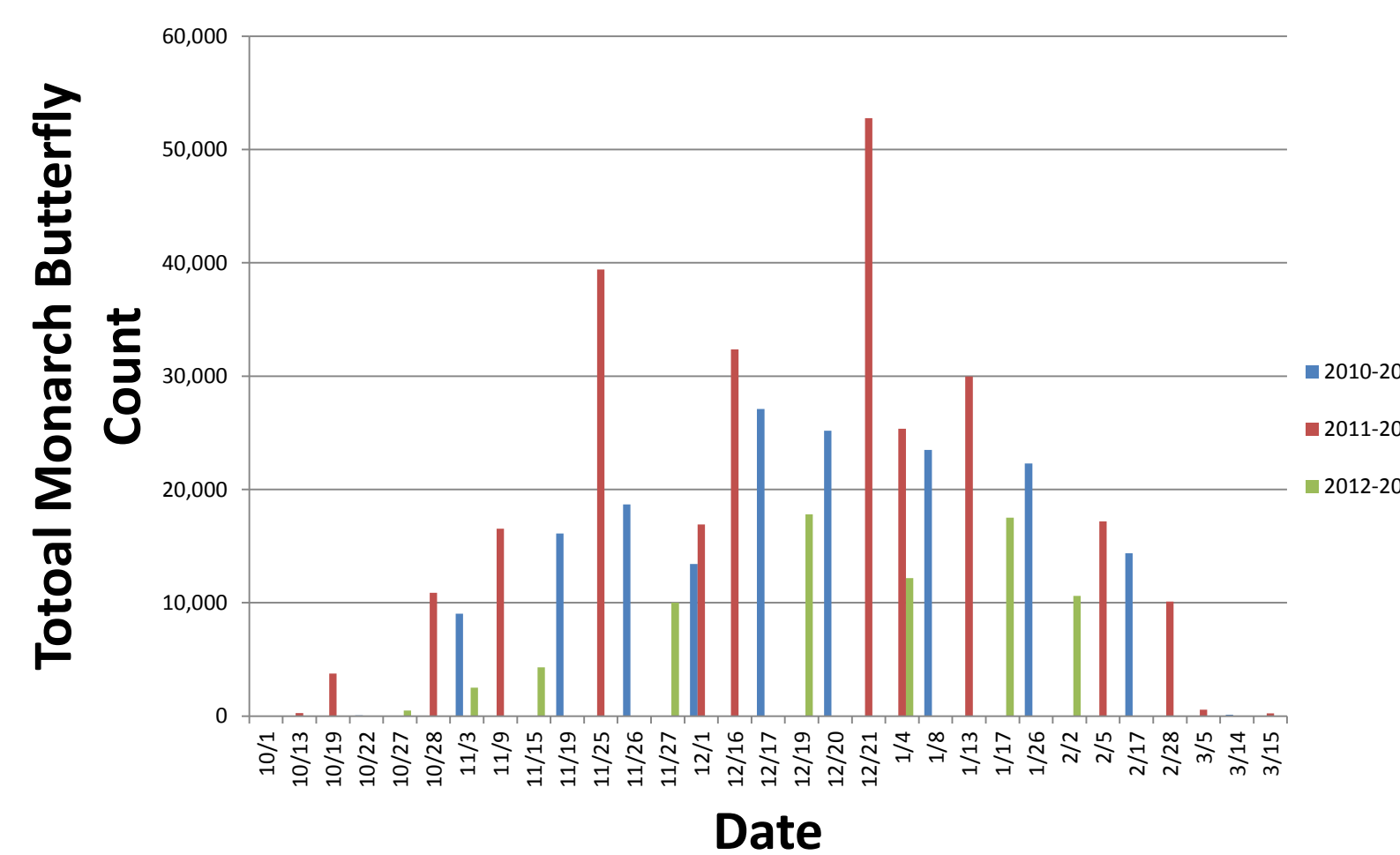


### Ellwood Main Historic Patterns



*Note: In the 1970's-80's, there are anecdotal accounts of approx. 250,000 monarchs per season.*

### Total Monarch Count On Ellwood Mesa 2010-2013



Data Provided by Dan Meade

*\*Ellwood East, Ellwood West, and Ocean Meadows not shown on graphs above due to low butterfly count results*

