

From the editor

from page 4

another shoe box, I bounded up the stairs to the second floor window, sliding it and the exterior screen open just enough to allow the bat to crawl over to the bottom of the shutter and rejoin its mother.

This time I was successful, and I haven't seen any more wayward bat orphans since.

All of this made me start to think — was there a connection between the declining bees, hummingbirds and the bird and bat deaths?

Then I discovered this report from the *Boston Globe*:

Less of a buzz in North America.

Pity the honeybee, hummingbird, and bat. And possibly us.

A report issued by the National Academy of

Sciences said that the three species are "demonstrably" declining in the United States and Canada, and that their losses are affecting not just their populations — but potentially parts of various ecosystems, including some parts of our food supply.

The birds, bees and bats are pollinators, and nearly three-quarters of all flowering plants depend on them to spread pollen so that fertilization can occur and fruits, nut and vegetables can grow.

Some scientists also believe that global warming may be playing a role in the decline of birds and bees and the flowering plants that they keep alive. Under that reasoning — slight increases in temperatures may be altering the migration patterns of bumblebees ... causing plants to flower earlier in the season, thus throwing off the process of pollination.

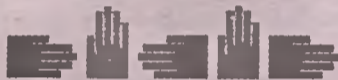
"We're starting to see signals of pollinators declining," said Allison Snow, a professor of biology at Ohio State University. "We don't know yet whether it is a looming crisis. But what we are seeing is very disturbing. We know how important these pollinators are, and if they disappeared, we would be in deep trouble."

I'm not a global warming alarmist — but additional reports I've discovered that confirm increasing numbers of total species extinctions within the last century also add to the cause for concern. Are we damaging our planet beyond repair? Is it too late to do anything about it? ▀

Sudoku: lots of fun with 1-9!

SUDOKU

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							2	
9								3
		8	5	1	9			
	9				5	8	3	
	2	6		7		9	4	
	4	5	8				7	
			6	5	3	7		
5								2
	7							

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Sudoku Answers

6	7	9	1	8	2	3	5	4
5	8	3	9	4	7	6	1	2
4	1	2	6	5	3	7	9	8
3	4	5	8	9	6	2	7	1
8	2	6	3	7	1	9	4	5
7	9	1	4	2	5	8	3	6
2	3	8	5	1	9	4	6	7
9	5	7	2	6	4	1	8	3
1	6	4	7	3	8	5	2	9



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