

Pollinators: Working the Night Shift to reflect on

The world is magical and everything has its own laws, and nature is certainly no exception. As the story goes, if flowers lack the help of insects to pollinate them, they cannot reproduce on their own, even if they don't mean to, and they will affect each other. Mosquitoes, for example, are such noisy little insects that if you could make a wish on a magic lamp, killing all the mosquitoes would be the first thing many people would wish for. However, what would happen if there were no mosquitoes in the world? Some reports speculate that this would leave many animals or insects without enough food to eat. Many animals would fight each other for food and there would be far less prey to replace mosquitoes. In such a situation, biodiversity would become less and less. Another example is that in China, farmers think that sparrows eat the crops and so the harvest is bad. They got a group of people to hunt the sparrows, however, the harvest was less than before because the crops were eaten by insects that were afraid of sparrows and there was a famine.

From the examples above we can learn that although animals or insects are not good for people, sometimes they have a very important role to play in our natural world. Therefore, what we need to do is to understand the meaning behind the behaviour of each animal. The world goes its own way, which is why we always need to hunt down alien species when they invade. For example, the green iguana in Taiwan has no enemies, eats everything, hides underground and is hard to find, leaving many animals dead in their mouths. Thus, everyone needs to know about them to prevent ecological disasters and not to introduce exotic species for their own selfish reasons.