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Report of the US Department of Agriculture and US Department of the Interior Joint Workshop on Declining Pollinators

Authors: [Vincent J. Tepedino](#); [Howard S. Ginsberg](#); [NATIONAL BIOLOGICAL SERVICE LAUREL MD PATUXENT WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER](#)

Abstract: **Pollinators** such as bees, birds, and bats are important components of agricultural and natural ecosystems. Current evidence suggests that populations of some **pollinators** are declining because of habitat loss and fragmentation, pesticide use, and the effects of invasive species. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of the Interior held a joint workshop on declining **pollinators** to assess the current status of pollinator populations and to recommend research directions for their agencies. The two-day workshop on 27 - 28 May 1999 in Logan, Utah, included presentations by federal scientists and university and museum researchers on the evidence and causes of pollinator declines and on resulting problems for agriculture, changing patterns in pollination of wild plants, and implications for natural communities. The participants discussed research needs and joint research strategies for both agencies. Important recommendations included establishing monitoring programs to assess trends in pollinator populations, conducting biological surveys of **pollinators**, fostering study of bee systematics, assessing the roles of **pollinators** in natural and agricultural systems, and restoring pollinator habitat.

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