

FROM THE NEW YORKER:

[Shouts & Murmurs](#)

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Idioms Updated for Climate Change

By [Ginny Hogan](#)

- A rising tide floods all houses.
- A bird in the hand is worth more than it used to be because they're going extinct.
- She vanished into oddly thick air!
- Stop and smell the flower.
- One man's trash is everybody's trash because it all goes in the same enormous landfill.
- It happens only once in a blue moon, and that's pretty frequently because now the moon is all sorts of weird colors.
- She's a real force of almost entirely decimated rain forest.
- A rose by any other name would wilt and die without water, which we're running out of.
- She's so hot and cold, like the month of January.
- When it rains, it acid-rains.
- Can we please address the elephant in the room? Why has this elephant been displaced from Africa? It doesn't belong in New York City.
- Ugh, she's giving me the tepid shoulder again.
- There's got to be at least one other fish left in the sea.
- Let's save it for a rainy day—and by that I mean let's never, ever do it.
- You can lead a horse to a dried-up reservoir, but you can't make it drink dirt.
- Every cloud has a silver lining, but that's something we really ought to investigate because, much like the weirdly colored moon, clouds aren't supposed to be silver.
- Who let the cat out of the bag? Please be more careful with her. She's our *last* cat.
- It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. (It's June.)
- You're on thin ice, buddy. In fact, we all are. If there's a part of the world that still has thick ice, we need to know about it immediately.
- You killed two birds with one stone! Unfortunately, those were the only two birds we had left.
- Don't put all your eggs in one basket—it's unclear if we'll be able to find any new eggs. As I just mentioned, all the birds are dead.
- Curiosity killed the cat—oh, wait, no, we killed it for food.
- You catch more flies with honey—here, let me show you how to catch flies. That's dinner right there.
- Don't eat a dead horse. Not until we've eaten this cat, at least.
- It's not rocket science. You know, rocket science? The only type of science that matters anymore because we need to find a new planet to live on?
- Let's cross that bridge when we come to it, as we escape this raging fire and sprint for dear life toward the rocket ship.
- She's really got her head in the clouds, which makes sense because our rocket actually is currently in the clouds.
- Time flies when you're travelling at the speed of light to escape the now uninhabitable Earth!
- You only live once—specifically, for the remainder of this spaceship ride because it's unlikely that we'll find another planet with potable water.
- Shoot for the moon, and even if you miss—damn it, we missed. Well, humans had a good run. Better luck next time.
- The world is just that one oyster. Go forth and repopulate, little one. ♦