

PLANTS & WILDLIFE

BACKYARD REFUGE COLORING BOOK

draft

NM Backyard Refuge Program

nmBackyardRefuge.org

DESERT FOUR O'CLOCK



This is a **Desert Four-O-Clock** (***Mirabilis multiflora***) ! It provides food and cover for various birds and small mammals, and, due to the nocturnal opening flowers, it attracts night-flying moths, particularly **sphinx moths** (***Sphingidae Family***), which are its primary pollinator. It also attracts bees and wasps, and is a nectar source for hummingbirds.

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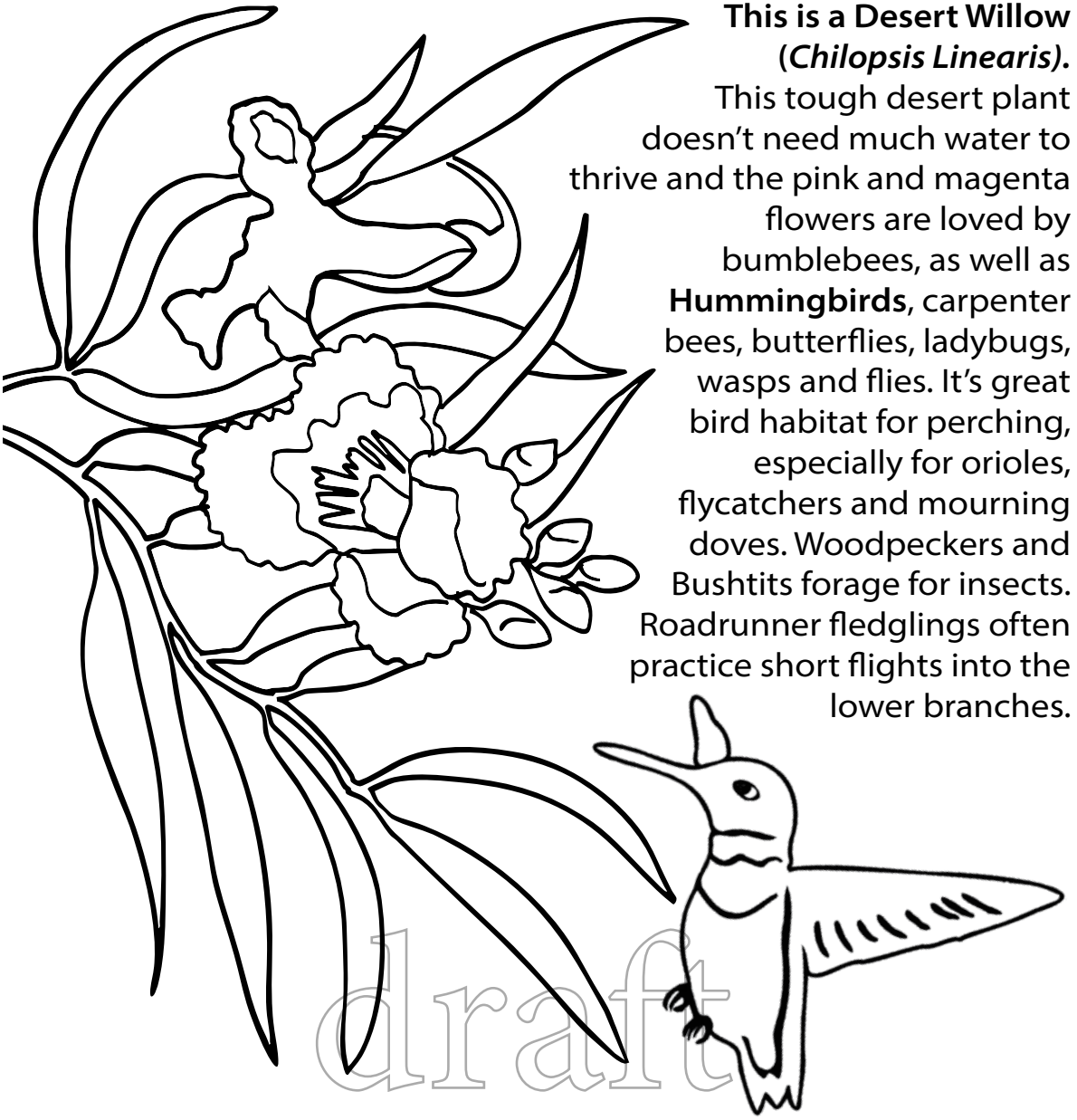
PENSTEMON



This is **Palmer's penstemon** ***(Penstemon palmeri)***, an important pollen source for many bees, particularly bumblebees, carpenter bees, digger bees, and sweat bees. It also acts as a larval host for checkerspot butterflies, and attracts buckeye butterflies, as well as geometrid and california tiger moths. It provides cover for small birds, and attracts hummingbirds.

art by LWren Walraven ✿ wrenzart.com ✿ nmBackyardRefuge.org

DESERT WILLOW

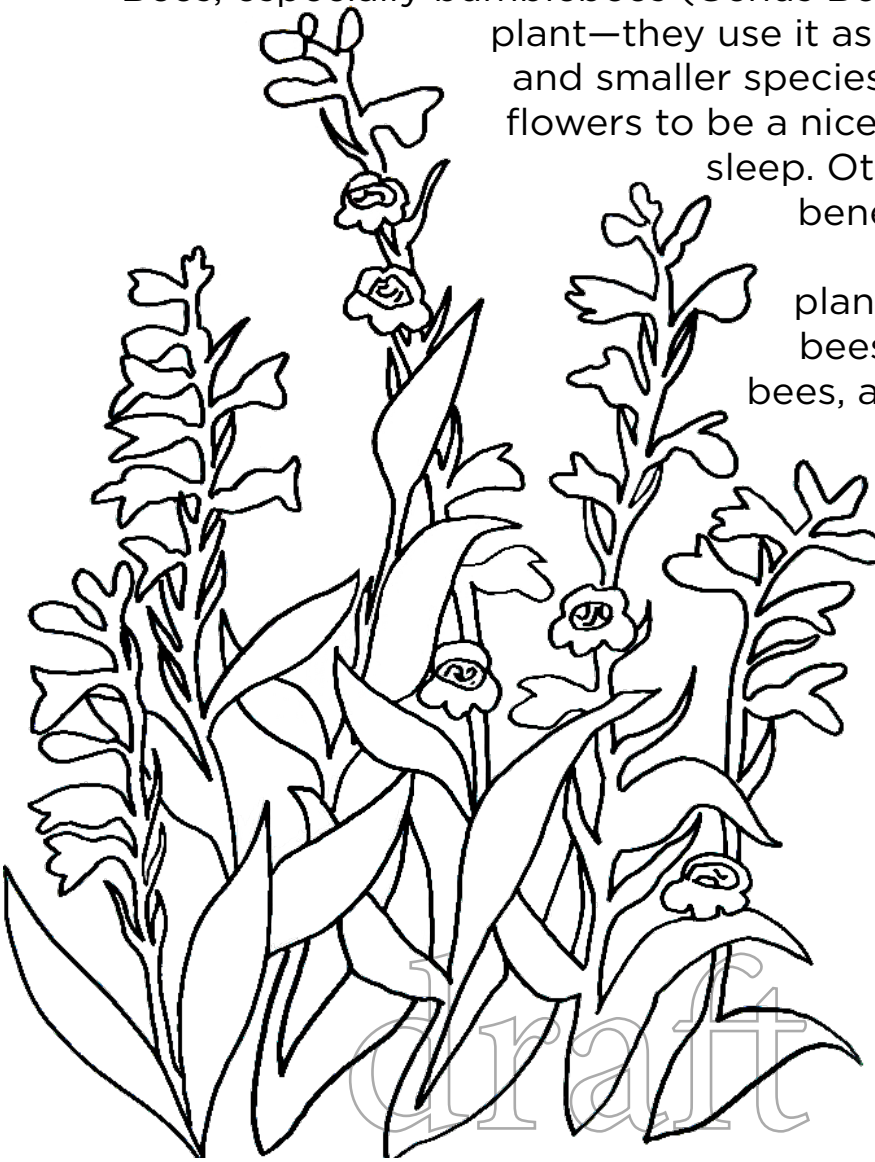


This is a Desert Willow (*Chilopsis Linearis)*. This tough desert plant doesn't need much water to thrive and the pink and magenta flowers are loved by bumblebees, as well as **Hummingbirds**, carpenter bees, butterflies, ladybugs, wasps and flies. It's great bird habitat for perching, especially for orioles, flycatchers and mourning doves. Woodpeckers and Bushtits forage for insects. Roadrunner fledglings often practice short flights into the lower branches.

PENSTEMON

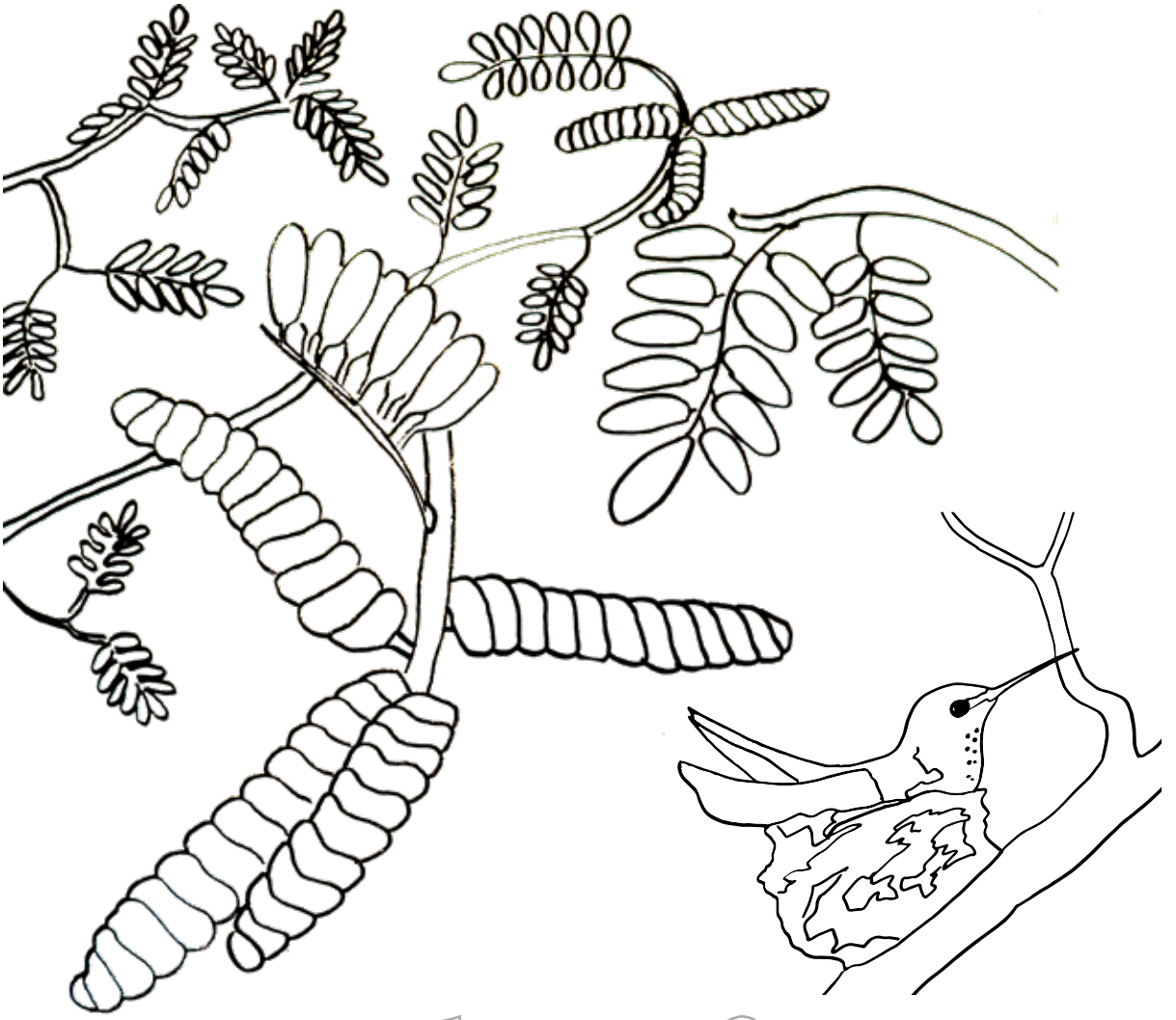
Rocky mountain penstemon *(Penstemon strictus)*

Bees, especially bumblebees (Genus Bombus), love this plant—they use it as a nectar source and smaller species find the purple flowers to be a nice place to rest or sleep. Other species that benefit from finding this evergreen plant include mason bees, and carpenter bees, as well as wasps, Checkerspot butterfly larvae, and hummingbirds.



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SCREWBEAN MESQUITE

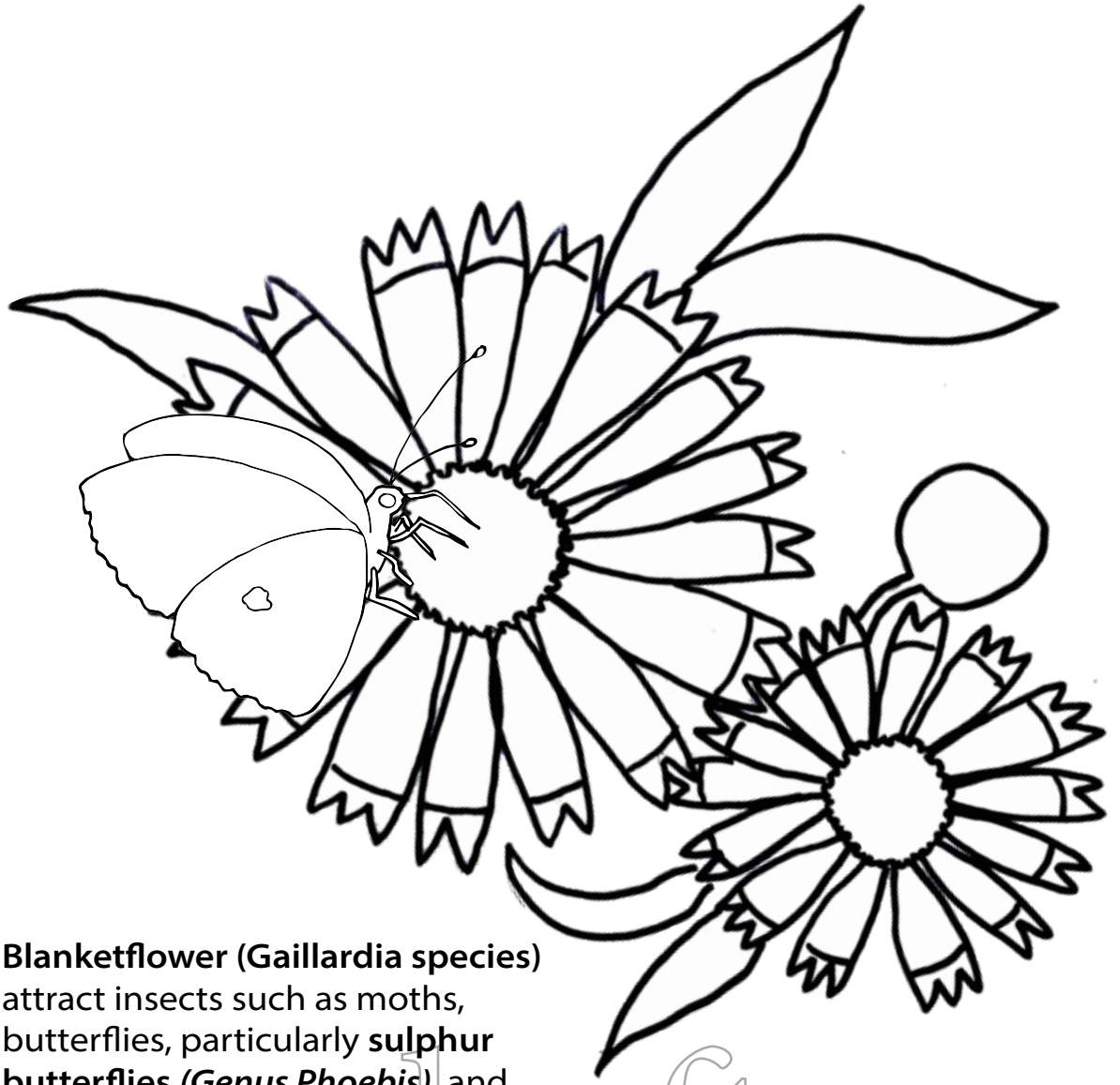


Screwbean Mesquite *(Strombocarpa pubescens)* provides food for wildlife in many forms. The flowers have nectar for many species of bees, moths, and butterflies. The seedpods are eaten by many mammals, including humans! This thorny tree also provides a safe place for hummingbirds to nest.

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BLANKETFLOWER



Blanketflower (Gaillardia species) attract insects such as moths, butterflies, particularly **sulphur butterflies *(Genus Phoebis)***, and native bees, particularly bumblebees, leafcutter bees, and sweat bees. Blanketflowers are also a nectar source for hummingbirds and source of seeds for finches and other seed-eating birds.

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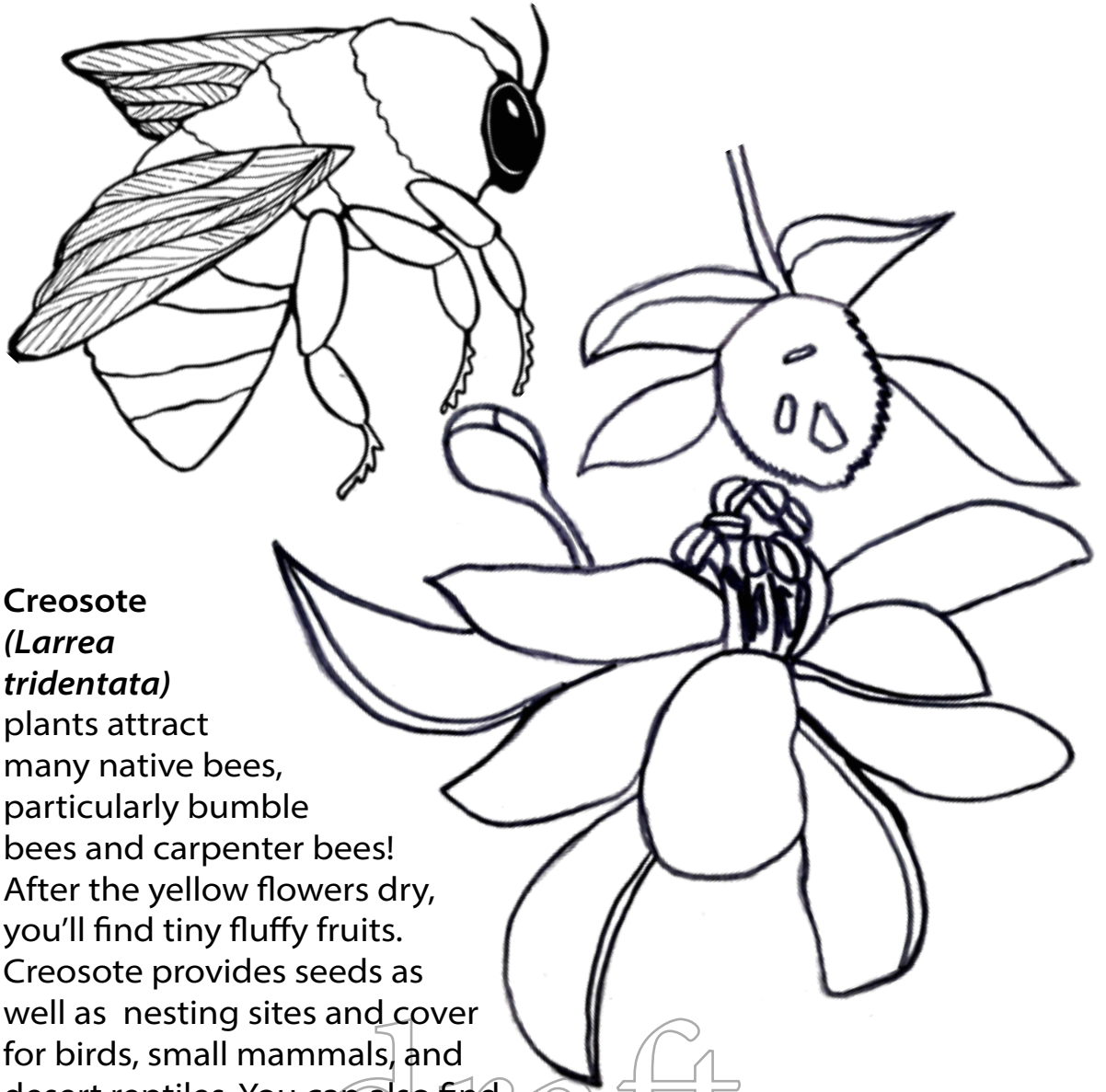
SUNFLOWERS



Common Sunflower
(Helianthus annuus)
is a sunflower species who has yellow blossoms in the summer and fall. It is a pollen and nectar source for native bees, particularly Bumblebees, longhorn bees, and **sweat bees *(*Family *Halictidae)***, and is a host for painted lady and checkerspot butterflies. It also attracts wasps, beetles, grasshoppers, crickets, and katydids, and provides food and cover for birds, especially goldfinches, chickadees, sparrows, quail, and doves. Small mammals such as gophers, chipmunks, and mice also love its plentiful seeds! Any leftover seeds may grow into next year's flowers.

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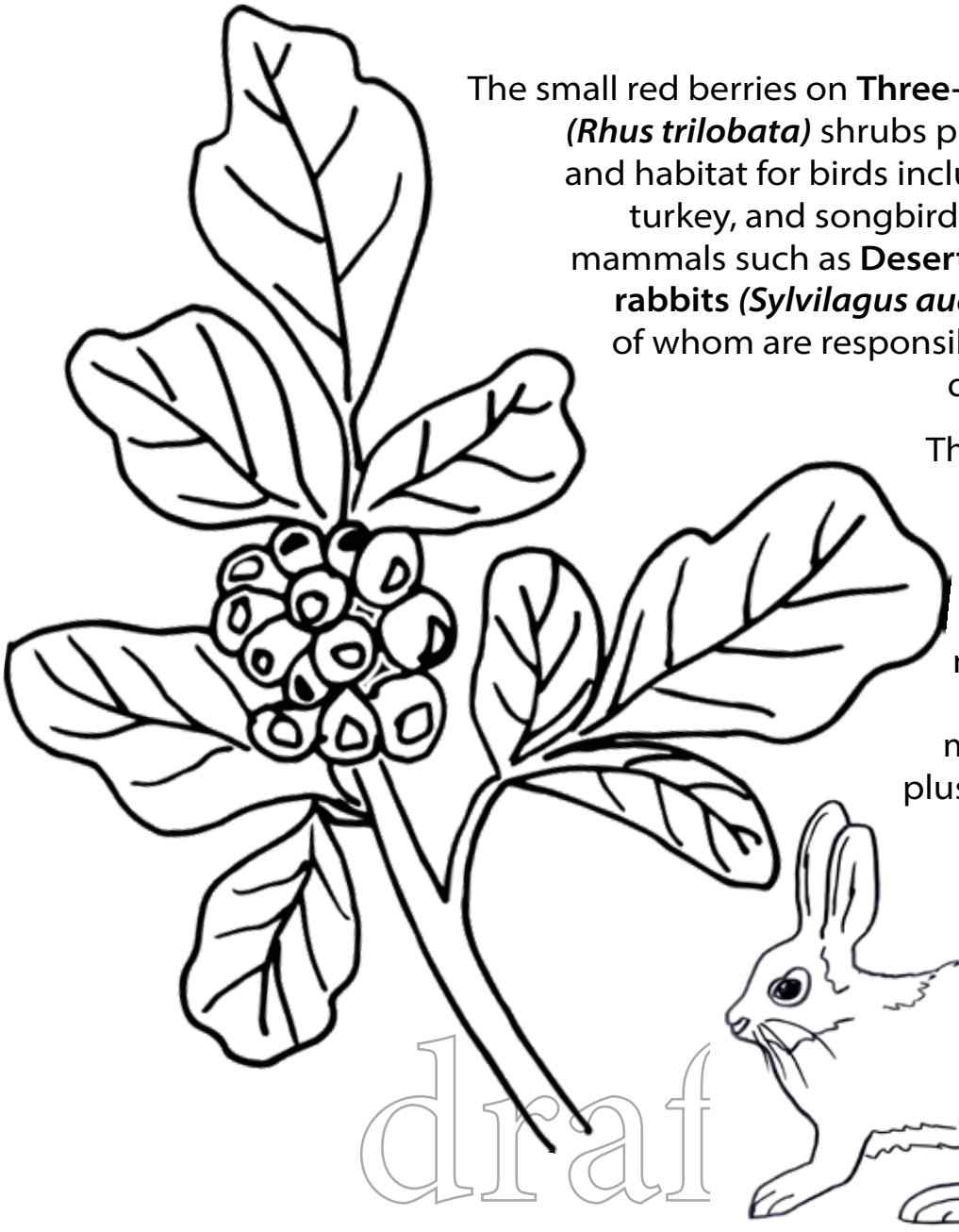
CREOSOTE



Creosote
(Larrea tridentata)
plants attract many native bees, particularly bumble bees and carpenter bees! After the yellow flowers dry, you'll find tiny fluffy fruits. Creosote provides seeds as well as nesting sites and cover for birds, small mammals, and desert reptiles. You can also find praying mantids, crickets, and grasshoppers visiting this species.

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SUMAC

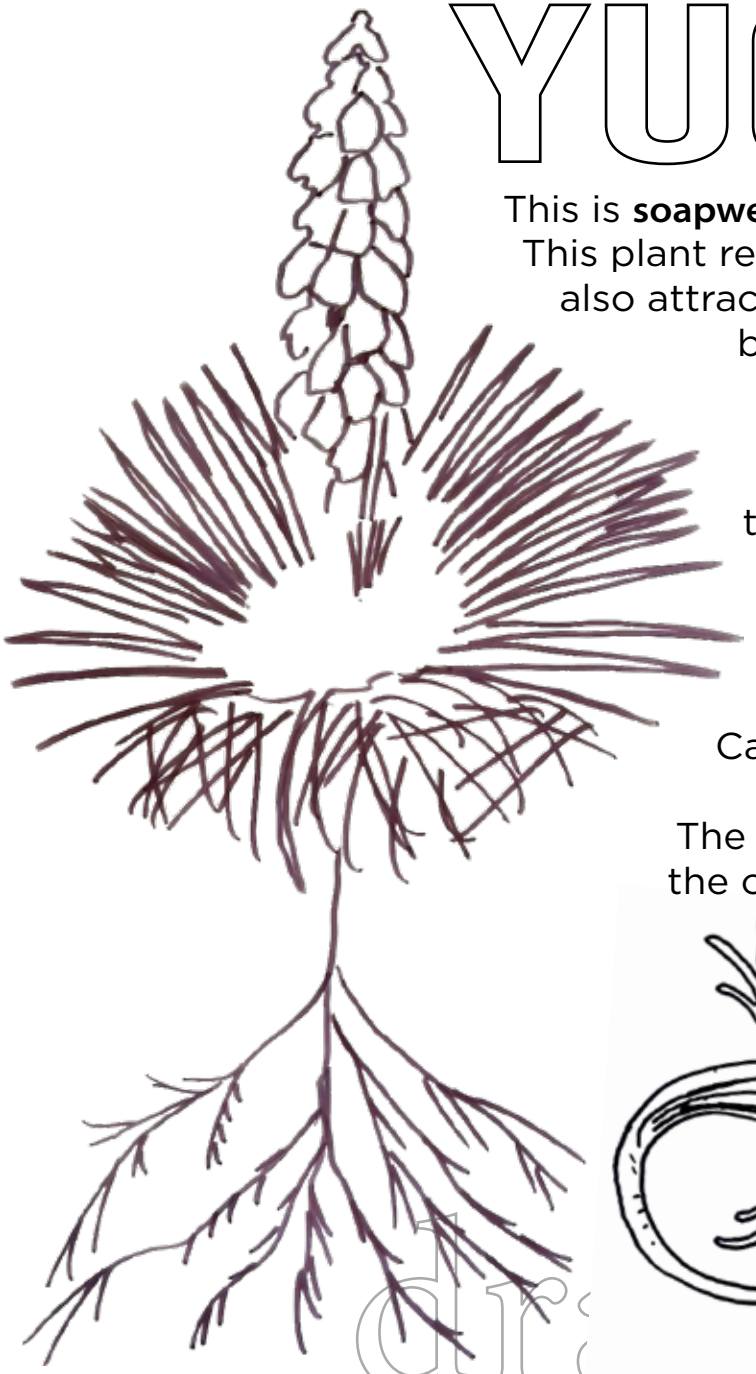


The small red berries on **Three-leaf Sumac *(Rhus trilobata)*** shrubs provide food and habitat for birds including quail, turkey, and songbirds, and small mammals such as **Desert Cottontail rabbits *(Sylvilagus audubonii)***, all of whom are responsible for seed distribution.

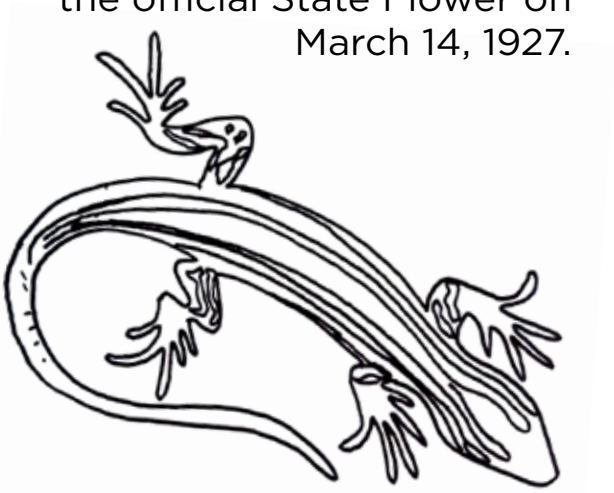
This beautiful shrub also provides pollen and nesting for native bees, especially mason bees, plus butterflies and moths!

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YUCCA



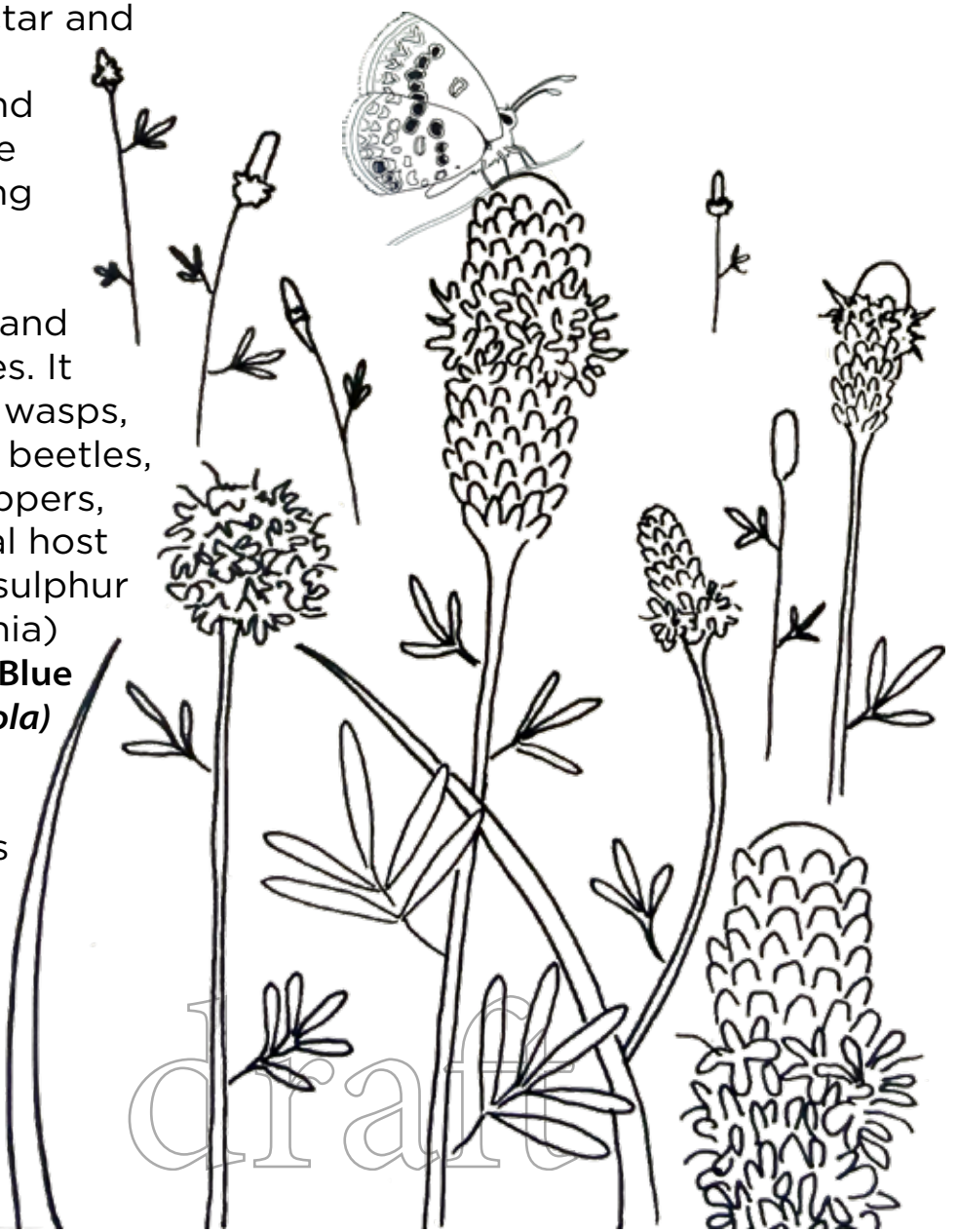
This is **soapweed yucca *(Yucca glauca)***. This plant relies on yucca moths. It also attracts native bees, various beetles, hummingbirds, songbirds, bees, small rodents, our New Mexico State Reptile, the **New Mexico Whiptail Lizard *(Aspidoscelis neomexicanus)***, and is a larval host for giant skipper butterflies. Cavity-nesting bees also nest in yucca stems. The yucca was adopted as the official State Flower on March 14, 1927.



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PURPLE PRAIRIE-CLOVER

Purple Prairie-Clover *(Dalea purpurea)* provides nectar and pollen for butterflies and several native bees including bumblebees, leafcutter, longhorned, and plasterer bees. It also attracts wasps, syrphid flies, beetles, and grasshoppers, and is a larval host for dogface sulphur (Colias cesonia) and **Reakirt's Blue *(Hemiargus isola)*** butterflies. This plant also provides food for various birds and small mammals.



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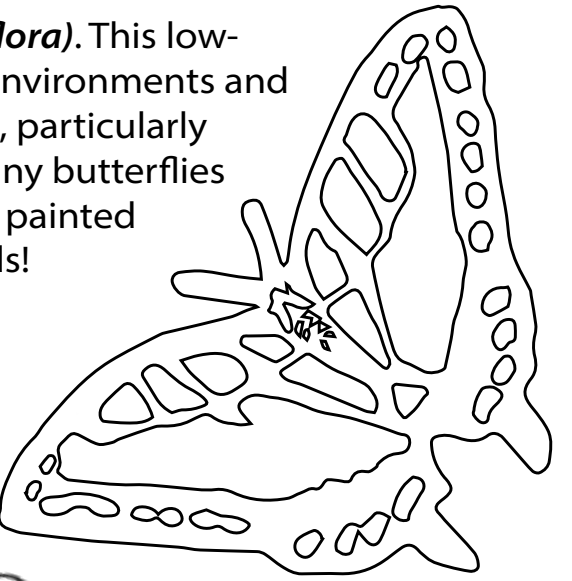
CONEFLOWER

This is a **Coneflower** ***(Genus Ratibida)***. This wildflower attracts native bees, including bumblebees, sweat bees, leafcutter bees, and long horned bees, and is a food source for seed-eating birds, especially finches. It also provides nectar and larval nesting sites for butterflies including sulphurs, monarchs, viceroys, crescents, and hairstreaks, as well as wavy-lined moth larvae.



DESERT ZINNIA

This is a **Desert Zinnia** ***(Zinnia Grandiflora)***. This low-growing yellow flower thrives in arid environments and attracts many beneficial native insects, particularly moths and bees, bumblebees, and many butterflies including monarchs, swallowtails, and painted ladies. It is also loved by hummingbirds!





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APACHE PLUME

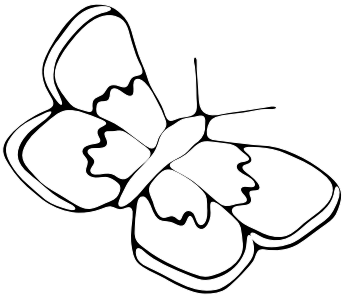


Apache Plume ***(Fallugia paradoxa)*** is a larval host for butterflies and moths, including Neumogen's buckmoth. This drought-tolerant shrub also attracts several beneficial insects such as butterflies and native bees of all sizes, including bumble bees. The seeds provide food for small mammals and ground-foraging birds!

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CHOCOLATE FLOWER

This is a **Chocolate Flower** ***(Berlandiera lyrata)***, an important pollen and nectar source for many native bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. This yellow flower provides food for songbirds such as goldfinches, who eat the dried seeds. Rabbits and deer resistant plant don't enjoy eating this plant who smells like chocolate!





actual size

The tiny **Western Pygmy-Blue** ***(Brephidium exilis)*** is the smallest butterfly in North America. These copper and blue butterflies often visit Chocolate Flower blossoms.

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ENGELMANN'S DAISY



This is an **Engelmann's Daisy** ***(Engelmannia peristenia)***, a great food source for butterflies, rabbits, and birds such as goldfinches, quail, and sparrows!

This yellow flower also provides cover for small mammals.

art by LWren Walraven wrenzart.com nmBackyardRefuge.org

SUNFLOWERS

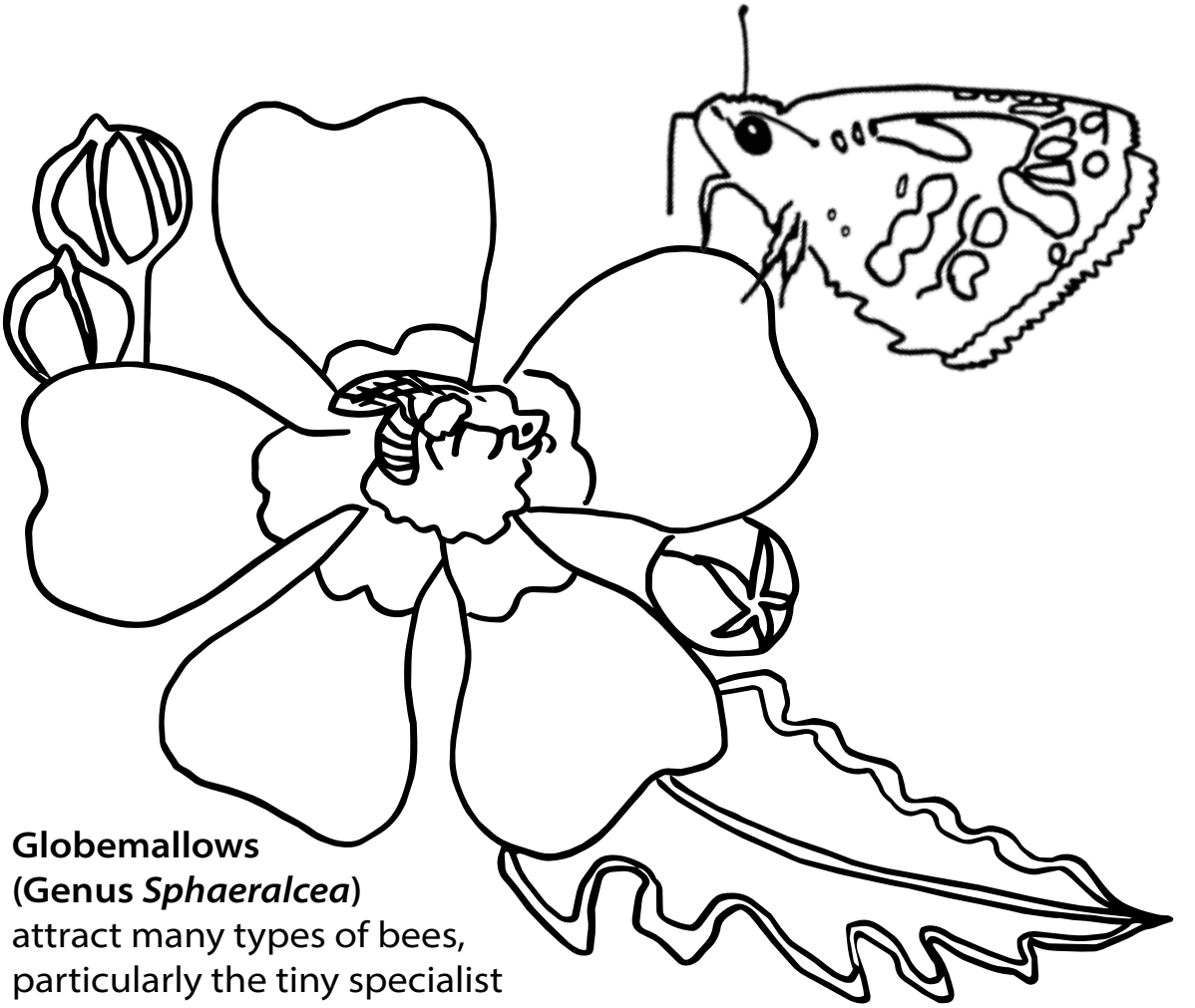


Desert Mule's Ear ***(Wyethia scabra)*** is a type of sunflower who blooms in the spring and summer. This yellow flower attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, moths, and native bee of all sizes including **Digger Bees** ***(Genus Anthophora)***. Small rodents and seed-eating birds also love me as a food source!

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GLOBEMALLOW



Globemallows
(Genus *Sphaeralcea*)
attract many types of bees, particularly the tiny specialist globemallow bee (*z*) Globemallow andrena bee (*Andrena sphaeralceae*), and bees in the genus ***Lasioglossum*** who are primary pollinators. It is also an important food source for small animals such as the Gambel's quail, and kangaroo rats, and is a larval host for butterfly species including skippers, hairstreaks, and painted lady butterflies!

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TANSY ASTER



Tansy Aster ***(Machaeranthera tanacetifolia)*** is a seed source for many birds, and also attracts many pollinators as a pollen source and larval nesting site. These include the **Bordered Patch** ***(Chlosyne lacinia)***, checkerspot, and pearl crescent varieties of butterflies, as well as the hooded owlet moth, and many native bees!

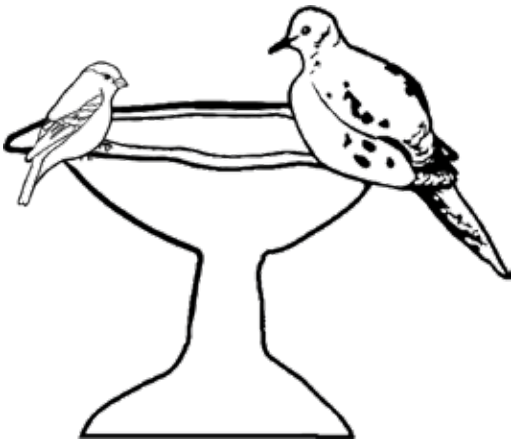
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NM Backyard Refuge Program



In this time of change, our entire living community faces daunting challenges. Our goal is to create a mosaic of habitat across the region that benefits wildlife and contributes to a more resilient future for us all.
By intentionally creating spaces we can share with other species, our community can be a refuge for both people and wildlife.





We provide educational resources to help our community to add habitat to their spaces, from a backyard to a container garden on a patio or balcony. Creating spaces people and our urban wildlife can share allows us to actively care for our wild neighbors and rediscover a relationship with our more-than-human world.

You can certify your space as an ABQ Backyard Refuge and help us to encourage others in your community to share their space with wildlife. Building refuges in our yards and neighborhoods is giving our wild neighbors time and resources for adapting to our changing world.

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nmBackyardRefuge.org

Know Your Neighbors!

Spend time in your yard or neighborhood watching and listening for wildlife. It is fun to use the apps **iNaturalist** or **Seek** to identify all the living beings in your space. You may be surprised by how many wild neighbors you have!



Find the plants (or wildlife) in your yard who you want to identify: *iNaturalist* can help you identify any living being–plant, animal, fungi, slime mold, or any other evidence of life (scat, fur, tracks, shells, carcasses).



Take pictures: Take photographs with your phone or a digital camera. For plants, take close-up photos of the different parts of the plant and also a photo of the whole plant. You can also make audio recordings of sounds using the iNaturalist app.



Share Your Observations:
Create an *iNaturalist* account and upload your sightings on the app or website.



Identify: The *iNaturalist* community of scientists and naturalists will help to identify what you've observed. If your observation isn't identified, send the observation link to us at **abqBackyardRefuge@friendsofvalledeoro.org** and we will share it with our experts for help with identification.

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iNaturalist.org

iNaturalist

(Lazy) Gardening for Wildlife!

Creating your backyard refuge is easier than you think.

These simple practices provide safe habitat for our wild neighbors, and can save you time and money!



Birds love sunflowers and the seeds produced by native bunch grasses. It is a common practice to cut off dried grasses and flowers in the autumn but **leaving dried grasses and the seed heads on flowers** provides food for seed-eating birds in the winter and early spring as well as nesting or over-wintering habitat for beneficial insects. Leave them standing until spring and then remove last year's stalks to make room for the new season of growth.



Leaf litter provides habitat for many species. Butterflies lay their eggs on the underside of leaves so leaving leaf litter over winter can mean more butterflies in the spring! Many other beneficial insects overwinter under leaf litter. Spotted Towhees, other sparrows, and lizards find insects and seed under the leaves. **Keep this habitat in your yard by leaving some leaf litter where it falls.** Leaves don't decompose as quickly as they do in wetter climates, but you can leave them as mulch to keep the soil moist during the winter, and then move those who would smother new growth in the spring.



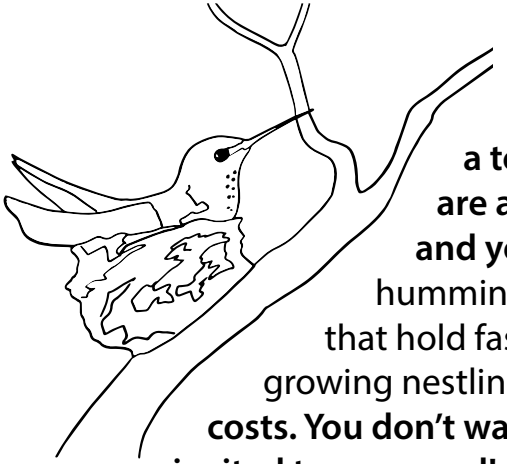
Many birds, such as hummingbirds, love to perch on dead branches. Trees with dead or diseased branches can provide food, shelter, and nesting sites for woodpeckers and other birds. **If you have dead branches who don't pose a safety hazard, consider leaving them for the birds!** If you do need to trim trees, wait until after summer nesting season ends in late September and complete trimming before owls and hawks begin nesting in mid-winter.

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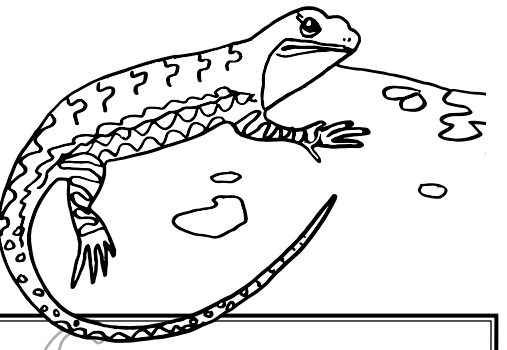
Butterflies and other pollinators feed on the flowers of weeds who bloom before other plants in the spring. **Allow "weeds" and aster flowers, such as dandelions, to bloom! They are early sources for pollen & nectar for bees, pollinating wasps and flies.** Also, aster fluff is used by hummingbird mamas to build cozy nests.



Insects of all sorts provide food for birds and other wildlife. Hummingbirds love nectar but also need protein, especially for growing babies. **Challenge yourself to develop a tolerance for "pests" like aphids which are a food source for pollinators like wasps and young hummingbirds.** Without spiders, hummingbirds would not be able to build nests that hold fast to branches and expand around their growing nestlings. **Avoid using chemical controls at all costs. You don't want to inadvertently kill the wildlife you've invited to your yard!**



Reptiles and amphibians eat insects and rodents. **To attract them to your yard, leave piles of rocks in a sunny spot for basking, and add stumps, logs, and rock piles in shadier spots for nesting.**



If you find an injured bird, put the bird in a box, and do not give them food or water. In an hour, take the box outside and open it. The bird should fly away. If the bird is still having trouble, contact a certified wildlife rehabilitator.

Wildlife Rescue of New Mexico, Inc.:
(505) 344-2500
https://wildliferescuenm.org/

On a Wing and a Prayer
(505) 897-0439
https://www.facebook.com/wildbirdrehabber/

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The **New Mexico Backyard Refuge Program** is a collaboration between the Ciudad Soil & Water Conservation District and Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, with support from Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge and dozens of community partners.

We extend our thanks to
the Native Plant Society of New Mexico
for supporting the development of this and other editions in our coloring book series!

The plants in this edition can be found at the Habitat Garden at Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge. Visit our website to learn more about the plants who live there!

art by LWren Walraven, wrenzart.com

text by Minerva Metcalfe, Laurel Ladwig, and Kateri Sava.