

# The Importance of Pollinators

## What is a pollinator?

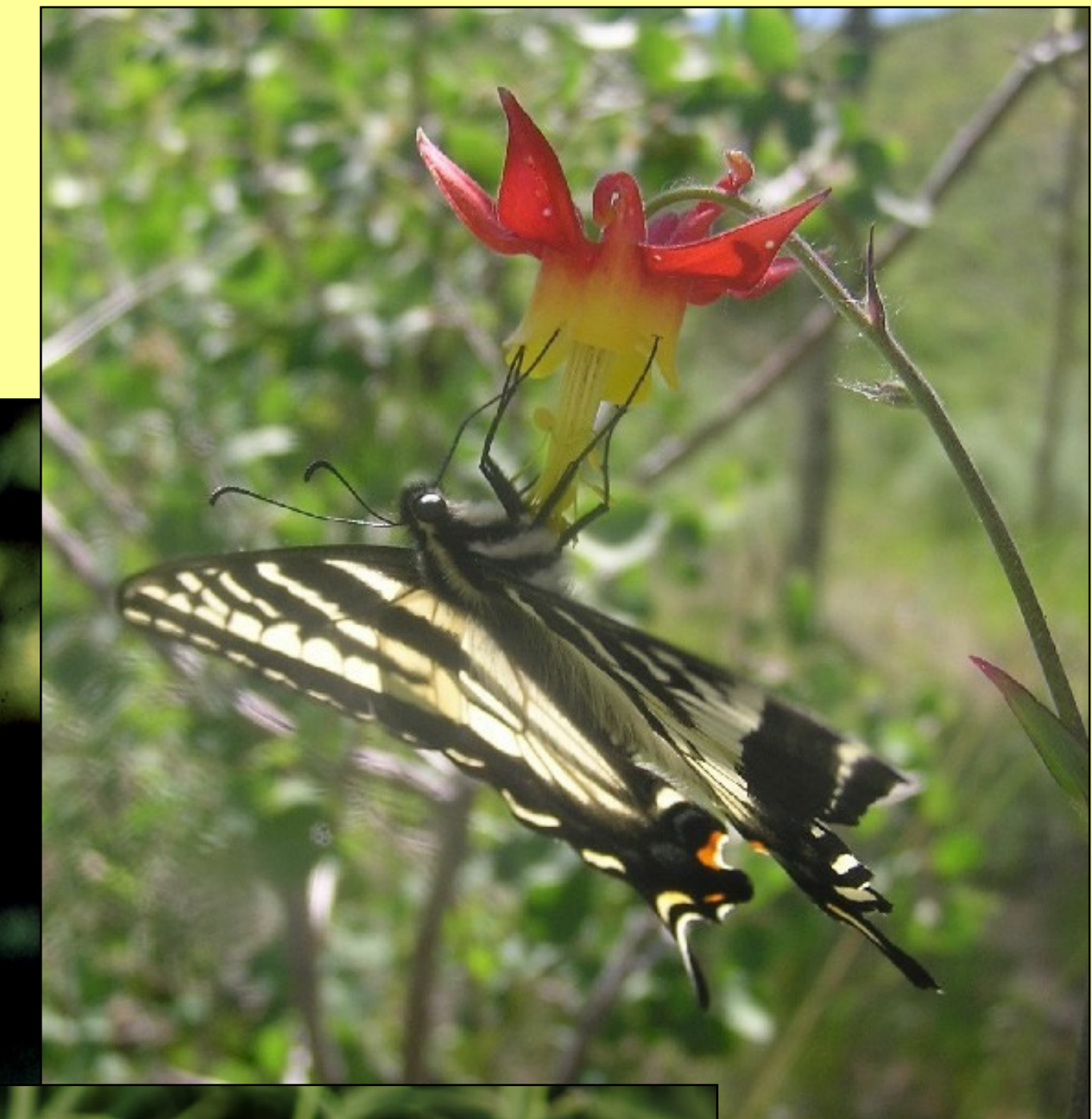
Insects (bees, wasps, moths, butterflies, flies, beetles) are the most common pollinators, but as many as 1,500 species of vertebrates such as birds and mammals serve as pollinators also.

## How does pollinator decline affect humans?

About 90% of all flowering plants need the help of animals to move pollen from flower to flower for the production of fruits and seeds. Of the estimated 1,330 crop plants grown worldwide for food, beverages, fibers, condiments, spices, and medicines approximately 75% are pollinated by animals.



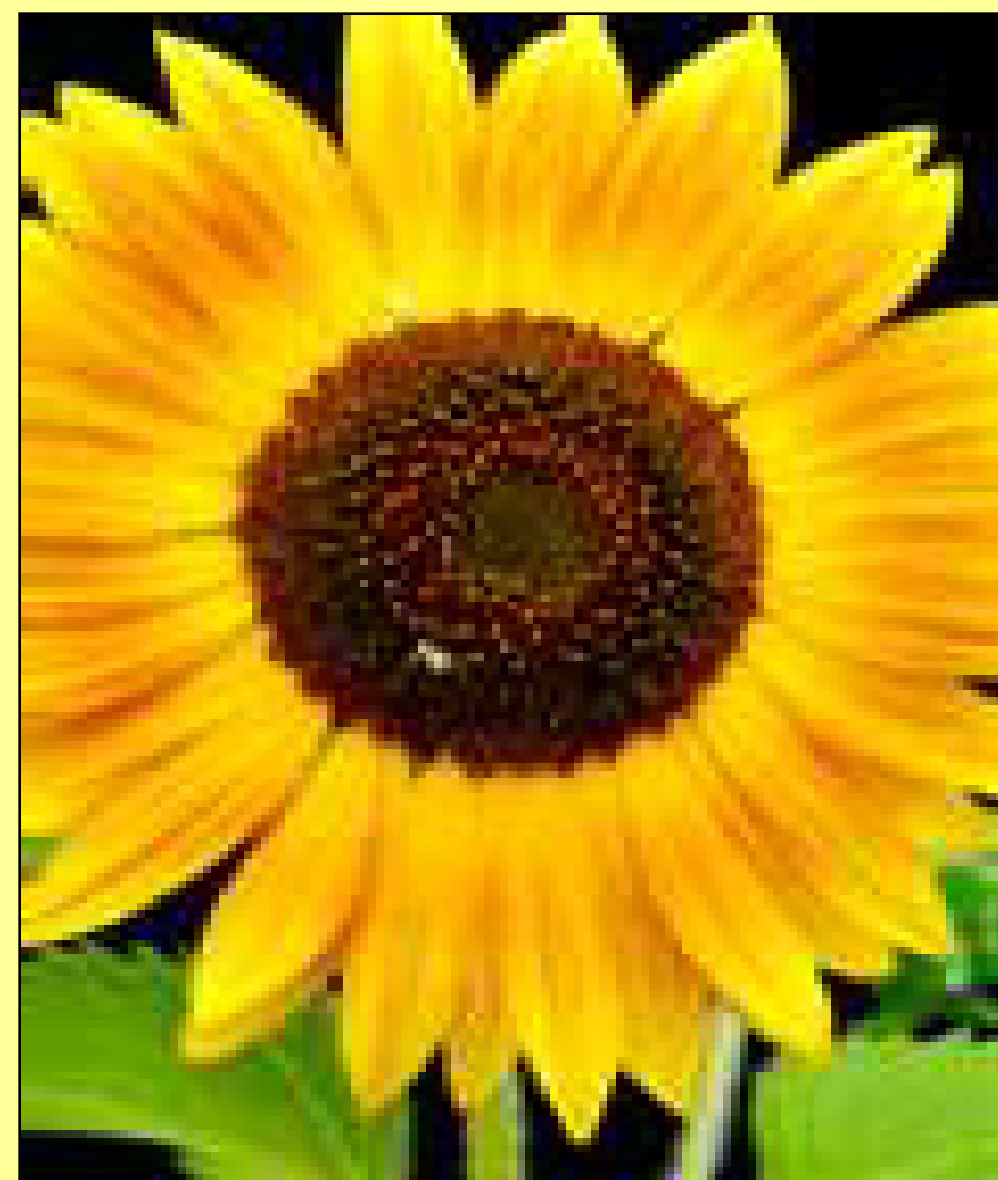
Charles Pierce, USDA



Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest



Dr. David W. Inouye, USDA



## What are the threats that pollinators face?

The main threats facing pollinators are habitat loss, pesticides, and disease. At least 3 bat; 5 birds; 24 butterfly, moth, and skipper; and one beetle species in the United States are listed as federally endangered.

## What can you do to help?

Plant a pollinator garden using native plants, build a bee box as a nesting site, and avoid or limit pesticide use.

