

Daniel Schwen



Viceroy Butterfly

Limnitis archippus

There are two subspecies of viceroy in the Rio Grande Bosque, both of which are native to North America. In New Mexico, viceroys are generally found near riverbanks or streams. This striking species is a mimic of the well-known monarch butterfly, which is toxic to predators such as birds and lizards. This strategy helps the viceroy avoid becoming lunch!

Katja Schulz



Tiphiid Wasps

Family Tiphiidae

Tiphiid wasps are solitary insects that undergo complete metamorphosis, spending time in both a larval and an adult stage. In the larval stage, tiphiid wasps feed on ground-dwelling beetle grubs. As adults, these wasps feed on nectar and pollen, making them key pollinators for many plant species. They may be seen pollinating desert willows in New Mexico from May to August.

Chrissy McClarren



Yucca Moths

Family Prodoxidae

Yucca moths have highly specialized mutualistic relationships with yucca plants. These plants depend exclusively on these moths for pollination. In return, the moths depend on yuccas for food, shelter, and a safe place to lay their eggs. This exquisite relationship has evolved over millions of years.

Katja Schulz

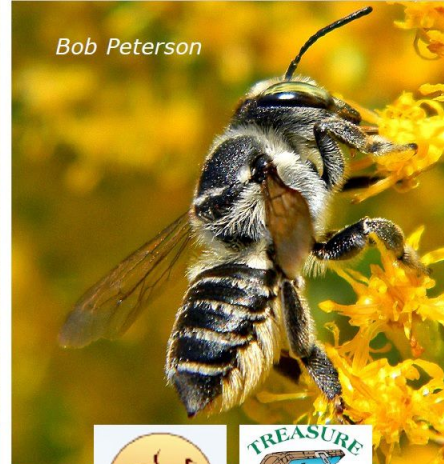


Miner Bees

Family Andrenidae

There are roughly 1200 species of miner bees in North America, and more than a dozen species in New Mexico. Most miner bees spend the winter in their underground nests and emerge in early spring to begin feeding on nectar from nearby flowers. In New Mexico, miner bees can be found pollinating a variety of plants, including the claret cup cactus.

Bob Peterson



Leafcutter Bees

Genus Megachile

There are several species of leafcutter bees in New Mexico, many of which construct nests out of mud or chewed leaves. Unlike honeybees, leafcutter bees collect pollen on the underside of their abdomens, rather than on their legs. Some species are cleptoparasitic and take over the nests of other solitary bees.

Max Pixel



Bumble Bees

Family Apidae

There are about 20 species of bumble bees in New Mexico. Bumble bees are active from spring to early fall, and may be seen 'buzz-pollinating' flowers, a form of pollination in which bees rapidly vibrate their wings to release pollen from flowers. Bumble bees are generalists that pollinate a variety of plants, including the tree cholla.