CREATING A SUSTAINABLE AND BEAUTIFUL HABITAT GARDEN
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our gardens can help restore diversity and make up for lost wildlife habitat:
increase diversity of plant types (trees, shrubs, grasses, perennials) and species
plant many natives (OK to plant adapted well-behaved exotics too as many adult
  insect pollinators are generalists; larvae often need specific grasses, trees, natives)
exclude aggressively spreading plants, exotic and native
reduce lawn space and hardscape
flowers and fruits attract pollinators and eaters (and gardeners incidentally)--
  shapes, colors, sizes, smells, tastes for specific clients
plant trees and shrubs in groupings/hedges/rows, deciduous & evergreen species
plant native bunchgrasses in a sunny open panel instead of lawn
create contrasts—edges: open vs. dense, low vs. tall, grassy vs. woody
layer plantings of varied heights to create multiple edges
create varied habitats in a small area using microclimates on your property:
southfacing—plants from desert/dryland, (hot, drier)
northfacing—plants from woods, evergreen forest edge (cooler, moister)
westfacing—plants from dry prairie, chaparral (sunny, hot, often exposed)
eastfacing—plants from woods' edge, moist prairie, chaparral (most temperate)
provide varied food for insects and birds over as long a period as possible:
some early flowers:
bulbs: winter aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*), snow crocus (*Crocus ancyrensis, C. chrysanthus*), snow iris (*Iris reticulata, Iris histrioides*), *Tulipa batalinii* and other species tulips, grape hyacinths (*Muscari*), daffodils (*Narcissus*)
perennials: woolly veronica (*Veronica pectinata*), mountain basket of gold (*Alyssum montanum*), cushion phlox (*Phlox subulata*), prairie smoke (*Geum triflorum*), pasqueflowers (*Pulsatilla*), sugarbowls (*Clematis hirsutissima*), golden banner (*Thermopsis*)
cacti: green hedgehog (*Echinocereus viridiflorus*)
snowball cactus (*Pediocactus simpsonii*)
the following lists of natives and non-natives feed many pollinators:
non-natives: poppies (*Papaver*), peonies (*Paeonia*) foxtail lilies (*Eremurus*), roses, catmint (*Nepeta*), yarrow (*Achillea*), love-in-a mist (*Nigella*), alliums, annual catchfly (*Silene armeria*), lavender, lemon drops (*Onosma*), sea hollies (*Eryngium*), veronica, butterfly bush (*Buddleia*), Amur maackia (*Maackia amurensis*)
natives: penstemons, prickly pear cacti (*Opuntia* and *Cylindropuntia*), Indian blanket (*Gaillardia*), salvias (some are non-native), wild quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*), phloxes, evening primroses (*Oenothera*), leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*), fernbush (*Chamaebatiaria millefolium*), purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*), sneezeweed (*Helenium*), greenthread (*Thelesperma*)
plants that contribute pollen and nectar as well as edible seed for birds later:
beebalm (*Monarda*), coneflowers (*Echinacea*), gayfeather (*Liatris*), globe thistle (*Echinops*), compass plants (*Silphium*), cosmos, coreopsis, prairie coneflower *Ratibida*

late floral and seed food:
broomweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), asters (*Symphyotrichum*), pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis*), grasses (bluestem *Andropogon, Schizachyrium*, grama *Bouteloua*) rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), sunflowers (*Helianthus*), black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia*), goldenrods (*Solidago*), calamint (*Calamintha nepeta*), pitcher sage (*Salvia azurea*), late torch lily (*Kniphofia triangularis*), border sedum (*Hylotelephium*), autumn crocus (*Crocus speciosus*)

favorite moth plants:
yuccas, purple rock cress (*Aubrieta*), pinks (*Dianthus*), catmint *Nepeta*, autumn sage (*Salvia greggii*, `Ultra Violet'), soapwort (*Saponaria*), evening primrose (*Oenothera*) fragrant stonecress (*Aethionema schistosum*), Greek valerian (*Centranthus ruber*, especially the white form), *Verbena*, *Gaura*, candytuft (*Iberis*), sweet alyssum, phlox desert four o'clock (*Mirabilis multiflora*), angel's trumpet (*Datura wrightii*), fragrant pale selections of petunia

favorite hummingbird plants: (hummers like warm, wind-free areas to feed)
penstemons (especially red, orange or deep pink species), pink and red coral bells (*Heuchera sanguinea* and hybrids), columbine, especially red/orange species like *Aquilegia canadensis, A. desertorum*), desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*), *Dichelostemma* `Pink Diamond', scarlet betony (*Stachys coccinea*), golden currant (*Ribes aureum, R. odoratum*), claret cup cactus (*Echinocereus triglochidiatus, E. coccineus*), scarlet gilia (*Ipomopsis*), torch lily (*Kniphofia*), hummingbird mint (*Agastache*), coral vine (*Lonicera sempervirens*),trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*) hummingbird trumpet (*Zauschneria* aka *Epilobium*)

berry, fruit, and seed plants for birds:
New Mexican olive (female plants, *Forestiera pubescens* ssp. *neomexicana*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier*), winter fat (*Krascheninnikovia lanata*) samaras of maples (*Acer ginnala, A. tataricum, A. glabrum, A. grandidentatum*) sand cherry (*Prunus besseyi*) and other cherries, currants (*Ribes*), grapes (*Vitis*), elderberry (*Sambucus*), raspberries (*Rubus*), sumacs (*Rhus*), *Viburnum*, *Juniperus* (female plants), crabapples (*Malus*), grape holly (*Mahonia*), hawthorns (*Crataegus*), Engleman ivy (*Parthenocissus inserta*), cotoneaster, mountain ash (*Sorbus*), barberry (*Berberis)*, buckthorn (*Rhamnus*), sea buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*)

create safe havens and protected nesting spots:
shade from hot sun (big tree and/or trellis)
protection from predators (dense and/or thorny plants—hawthorns, barberries,
   grape hollies, roses)
shelter from wind and severe weather (shrubs, dense twiggy trees, semi-enclosed patio or covered trellis space, dense vines, evergreens: white fir (*Abies concolor*), bristlecone pine (*Pinus aristata*), lacebark pine (*Pinus bungeana*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Colorado spruce (*Picea pungens*)

provide water

if desired, supplemental bird food in late fall, winter, early spring
            create a habitat garden to invite creatures, help them survive,
                    and reconnect with the natural world