

# Have you seen a...

## Carpenter Bee

### What Does this Species Look Like?

**Size:** About 1 inch

**Color:** Yellow and black

**General:** Shiny, black abdomen

**Usually Found:** Forests, woodlands, gardens, parks



### Did You Know?

- Carpenter bees (*Xylocopa virginica*) are native to Pennsylvania and feed on flower nectar.
- They are not social insects. Females make separate nests and feed their own offspring.
- Many people consider carpenter bees pests, because they can be destructive to human property. They make their nests by boring round holes 1/2 inch in diameter in dead, soft wood found in old barns, homes, and decks.
- Female carpenter bees lay their eggs in cells made in branches of their nest tunnels.
- Carpenter bees are often mistaken for bumblebees. A good way to tell them apart is that carpenter bees have shiny abdomens, whereas bumblebees have hairy abdomens.

### What am I Observing?

The timing (date) of:

- The first time a carpenter bee is seen

### Why Collect this Data?

This species is being monitored as a part of the Eastern PA Phenology Program to determine if this insect is impacted by environmental changes.

### How Do I Report this Data?

Observations can be reported as comments to the Eastern PA Phenology Blog:  
<http://watchingtheseasons.blogspot.com/>  
or sent to [phenology@lgnc.org](mailto:phenology@lgnc.org)

### Want to Find Out More?

Contact Diane Husic, Audubon *TogetherGreen* Fellow,  
[phenology@lgnc.org](mailto:phenology@lgnc.org)

**What is Phenology?** According to the National Phenology Network, phenology refers to the study of “recurring plant and animal life cycle stages, or phenophases, such as leafing and flowering, maturation of agricultural plants, emergence of insects, and migration of birds.”

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