

# Have you seen a...

## Bumblebee

### What Does this Species Look Like?

**Size:** Just under 1 inch

**Color:** Yellow and black

**General:** Fuzzy body, two sets of transparent wings with black veins; Females have pollen baskets on their hind legs

**Usually Found:** Gardens, grasslands, backyards



### Did You Know?

- Bumblebees (*Bombus spp.*) are native to every continent, except Antarctica and Australia.
- Bumblebees feed on the nectar and pollen of flowers. Once they have eaten all the nectar, they use their feet to leave a scent that alerts other bees to avoid the nectar-drained flower.
- Bumblebees are often mistaken for carpenter bees, which can be destructive to human property. A good way to tell them apart is that bumblebees have hairy abdomens, whereas the abdomens of carpenter bees are shiny.
- They rarely sting; only in self-defense or when their nest is threatened.
- Several bumblebee species are becoming very rare, but you can help by planting native flowering species in your garden.

### What am I Observing?

The timing (date) of:

- The first sighting of bumblebees
- The first sighting of a bumblebee on a flower
- The last sighting of the bumblebee

### 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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