



**Natural Heritage  
& Endangered Species  
Program**

[www.mass.gov/nhesp](http://www.mass.gov/nhesp)

*Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife*

**Yellow-banded Bumble Bee  
*Bombus terricola***

State Status: **None**  
Federal Status: **None**

**DESCRIPTION:** The American Bumble Bee is a native bumble bee. As for many native bees, consultation of a technical manual is needed for accurate identification. For a complete description of male and female, see: <http://www.discoverlife.org/mp/20q?search=Bombus+terricola&flags=subgenus>:

**HABITAT:** This species is a generalist.

**LIFE HISTORY:** Its flight season is April to October.

**GEOGRAPHIC RANGE:** Formerly, this bee ranged from Nova Scotia to Florida. In the northern portion of its range, it was transcontinental.

**STATUS AND THREATS:** This bee has exhibited a precipitous decline rangewide and may be extirpated from Massachusetts, or may be recovering. Introduced pathogens are primarily responsible for its current status. For more information, see The Xerces Society's summary on this species: <http://www.xerces.org/yellow-banded-bumble-bee/>.

**REFERENCES:**

- Ascher, J.S., and J. Pickering. 2015. Discover Life bee species guide and world checklist (Hymenoptera: Apoidea: Anthophila). [http://www.discoverlife.org/mp/20q?guide=Apoidea\\_species](http://www.discoverlife.org/mp/20q?guide=Apoidea_species)
- Cameron, S.A., J.D. Lozier, J.P. Strange, J.B. Koch, N. Cordes, L.F. Solter, and T. Griswold. 2011. Patterns of widespread decline in North American bumble bees. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 108 (2) 662-667.



Photo courtesy of USGS Native Bee Inventory and Monitoring Laboratory

- Colla, S.R., F. Gadallah, L.L. Richardson, D. Wagner and L. Gall. 2012. Assessing declines of North American bumble bees (*Bombus* spp.) using museum specimens. *Biodiversity and Conservation* 21(14): 3585-3595.
- Colla, S., L. Richardson, and P. Williams. 2011. Bumble Bees of the Eastern United States. U.S. Forest Service and Pollinator Partnership. Available from <http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/documents/BumbleBeeGuideEast2011.pdf>
- Gillespie, S. 2010. Factors affecting parasite prevalence among wild bumble bees. *Ecol. Entom.* 1-11.
- Michener, C.D. 2000. *The Bees of the World*. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore and London.
- NatureServe. 2013. Conserving key players in aquatic and terrestrial systems. An unpublished report on the status of dragonflies, damselflies and bumble bees of the Northeast United States. Final Report to the Sarah K. de Coizart Article 10th Perpetual Charitable Trust.
- Williams, P., R.W. Thorp, L.L. Richardson, and S.R. Colla. 2014. *Bumble Bees of North America: An Identification Guide*. Princeton Univ. Press.

Prepared 2015

**A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan**

**Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife**

1 Rabbit Hill Rd., Westborough, MA; tel: 508-389-6300; fax: 508-389-7890; [www.mass.gov/dfw](http://www.mass.gov/dfw)

Please allow the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program to continue to conserve the biodiversity of Massachusetts with a contribution for 'endangered wildlife conservation' on your state income tax form, as these donations comprise a significant portion of our operating budget.

[www.mass.gov/nhesp](http://www.mass.gov/nhesp)