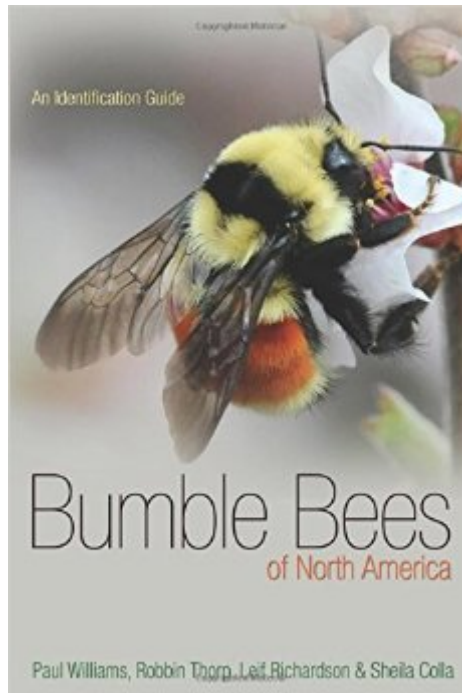


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Bumble Bees Of North America: An Identification Guide (Princeton Field Guides)



Synopsis

More than ever before, there is widespread interest in studying bumble bees and the critical role they play in our ecosystems. *Bumble Bees of North America* is the first comprehensive guide to North American bumble bees to be published in more than a century. Richly illustrated with color photographs, diagrams, range maps, and graphs of seasonal activity patterns, this guide allows amateur and professional naturalists to identify all 46 bumble bee species found north of Mexico and to understand their ecology and changing geographic distributions. The book draws on the latest molecular research, shows the enormous color variation within species, and guides readers through the many confusing convergences between species. It draws on a large repository of data from museum collections and presents state-of-the-art results on evolutionary relationships, distributions, and ecological roles. Illustrated keys allow identification of color morphs and social castes. A landmark publication, *Bumble Bees of North America* sets the standard for guides and the study of these important insects. The best guide yet to the 46 recognized bumble bee species in North America north of Mexico. Up-to-date taxonomy includes previously unpublished results. Detailed distribution maps. Extensive keys identify the many color patterns of species.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I came across this new paperback volume quite by accident while looking for something else at , and instantly ordered a copy in one of those knee-jerk reactions that I sometimes come to regret. But there's no regret at all this time - what a gem I found! This is a profusely illustrated, full-color

volume that will be a great introduction to our *Bombus* friends for anyone just beginning, while also containing useful information that will include new material for all but the most knowledgeable of bumble bee devotees. Even Sam Droege is quoted (on the back cover) as saying he learned new things that he'd find useful in his own work. The book is printed on semi-gloss paper and the images are all sharp and clear. The Introduction alone provides a great introduction to bumble bee distribution and diversity, the life cycle of a colony, and the nature of the interaction of bumble bees with plants. Maps show species richness in a large rectangular grid (probably 5 degrees of latitude by 5 degrees of longitude) across North America and the world, as well as the numbers of museum specimens of bumblebees from North America on this same grid. All but southernmost Maine is mapped in the "100-500" specimen range, with the observation that most bumblebee collecting has been around large urban centers. Chapters that follow cover bumble bee observation techniques, how to attract them, a forage guide by ecoregion, maps and season activity, bumble bee decline and conservation, threats to bumble bees, natural enemies, mimicry and distinguishing bumble bees from other insects (including some other Hymenoptera that may to the unknowing appear to be unusual bumble bees), and a "how-to" guide to using the book.

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