

Centre for Bee Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Speaker Series presents...



Investigating the value of Bumble Bee Watch

with **Victoria MacPhail**
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Community science is a fast-growing field that involves members of the public collecting and/or analyzing scientific data. It has the potential to increase the scale and scope of data beyond that researchers could accomplish alone, leading to improved conservation efforts and policies, amongst other positive outcomes.

Here we compared data collected by volunteers with the Bumble Bee Watch (BBW) program (launched 2014) to data collected or collated by researchers (dating back to the 1800s) on a per-species, province/state, and grid basis. While the BBW program made up a small amount of the overall dataset (8.5% of 519,294 records) it represented a quarter of the records for the last decade (44,135 of 176,136). Forty-one out of 48 species, and all 63 provinces, territories, and states of Canada and the United States, were represented, with more records for ten species and more grids

with records in the last decade as compared to the researcher data. BBW users provided new locations of rare species, confirmation of changes in distribution, new forage plant information, and more, particularly when compared over the last decade.

We also evaluated the impacts on and views of participants. Respondents were happy with the program, particularly the website resources, the contribution to conservation efforts, the educational values, and the obtaining of identifications. Many report increased awareness of species diversity and improvement in their identification skills. While not a replacement for traditional research, community science complements it and improves our knowledge of these pollinators.

Friday, May 7th, 2021
11:00 am – 12:30pm

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