

Bombus ashtoni* (Ashton's Cuckoo Bumble Bee)*Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)****Class:** *Insecta* (Insects)**Order:** *Hymenoptera* (Ants, Bees, Wasps And Sawflies)**Family:** *Apidae* (Honey Bees, Bumble Bees, And Allies)**General comments:**

no modern occurrences post mid 1990s - possibly extirpated; this species is an obligate nest parasite on *B. affinis* (SH) and *B. terricola* (SU), the latter which still persists in recent Maine collections, so could potentially support some lingering populations

Species Conservation Range Maps for Ashton's Cuckoo Bumble Bee:Town Map: [Bombus ashtoni_Towns.pdf](#)Subwatershed Map: [Bombus ashtoni_HUC12.pdf](#)**SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:****Risk of Extirpation: NA****State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern:***Bombus ashtoni* is listed as a species of Special Concern in Maine.**Recent Significant Declines:**

Ashton's Cuckoo Bumble Bee is currently undergoing steep population declines, which has already led to, or if unchecked is likely to lead to, local extinction and/or range contraction.

Notes: no modern occurrences post mid 1990s - possibly extirpated; this species is an obligate nest parasite on *B. affinis* (SH) and *B. terricola* (SU), the latter which still persists in recent Maine collections, so could potentially support some lingering popula

Regional Endemic: NA**High Regional Conservation Priority: NA****High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA****Understudied rare taxa: NA****Historical:**

Species currently listed as state (SH) or global (GH) historical (by MDIFW or NatureServe) that have some reasonable probability of rediscovery with further survey effort.

State Rank: SH, **Global Rank:** GH, **Rounded Global Rank:** GH, **MDIFW Historical:** Yes

MDIFW Historical Notes: no modern occurrences post mid 1990s - possibly extirpated; this species is an obligate nest parasite on *B. affinis* (SH) and *B. terricola* (SU), the latter which still persists in recent Maine collections, so could potentially support some lingering popula

Culturally Significant: NA**Habitats Assigned to Ashton's Cuckoo Bumble Bee:****Formation Name Agricultural****Macrogroup Name Agricultural****Habitat System Name:** Cultivated Crops **Notes:** *habitat generalist (woodlands, parks, gardens, etc)***Habitat System Name:** Pasture-Hay **Notes:** *habitat generalist (woodlands, parks, gardens, etc)***Formation Name Boreal Upland Forest****Macrogroup Name Boreal Upland Forest****Habitat System Name:** Boreal Upland Forest Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System **Notes:** *habitat generalist (woodlands, parks, gardens, etc)*

Bombus ashtoni (Ashton's Cuckoo Bumble Bee)

Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: *Insecta* (Insects)

Order: *Hymenoptera* (Ants, Bees, Wasps And Sawflies)

Family: *Apidae* (Honey Bees, Bumble Bees, And Allies)

Formation Name Developed

Macrogroup Name Urban-Suburban Built

Habitat System Name: Residential - Low Intensity **Notes:** *habitat generalist (woodlands, parks, gardens, etc)*

Habitat System Name: Residential - Rural-Sparse **Notes:** *habitat generalist (woodlands, parks, gardens, etc)*

Formation Name Grassland & Shrubland

Macrogroup Name Ruderal Shrubland & Grassland

Habitat System Name: Ruderal Upland - Old Field **Notes:** *habitat generalist (woodlands, parks, gardens, etc)*

Formation Name Northeastern Upland Forest

Macrogroup Name Central Oak-Pine

Habitat System Name: Central Oak-Pine Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System **Notes:** *habitat generalist (woodlands, parks, gardens, etc)*

Macrogroup Name Northern Hardwood & Conifer

Habitat System Name: Northern Hardwood & Conifer Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System **Notes:** *habitat generalist (woodlands, parks, gardens, etc)*

Stressors Assigned to Ashton's Cuckoo Bumble Bee:

		Moderate Severity	High Severity
Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability	Highly Actionable	Medium-High	High
	Moderately Actionable	Medium	Medium-High
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low	Low

IUCN Level 1 Threat Other Options

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Lack of knowledge

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Highly actionable

Notes: No modern EOs in ME; lack of comprehensive statewide survey effort to identify occurrences and determine species status

IUCN Level 1 Threat Pollution

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Agricultural and Forestry Effluents

Severity: Severe **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Pesticides (e.g., seed/nursery stock inoculation, agricultural applications); past impacts (i.e., severe declines) actionable with difficulty, but future impacts moderately actionable (e.g., changes in pesticide type and use)

IUCN Level 1 Threat Agriculture and Aquaculture

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Annual and Perennial Non-timber crops

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Habitat loss and fragmentation via intensive land management practices; can also create foraging and nesting habitat

IUCN Level 1 Threat Residential and Commercial Development

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Commercial and Industrial Areas

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Habitat loss and fragmentation

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None. *Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

Conservation Actions Associated with the Bumble Bees Guild:

Conservation Action	Category: Survey and Monitoring	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
Conduct statewide surveys to document species diversity, distribution and relative abundance.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: high	Type: new
Produce a statewide atlas and conservation assessment			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action	Category: Public Outreach	Biological Priority: moderate	Type: new
Develop and implement outreach materials to raise public awareness of native pollinator ecology, threats and conservation needs, and to encourage use of Integrated Pest Management practices.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Agricultural and Forestry Effluents

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

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Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.