

Native Bees, Bumblebees & Wasps of Los Alamos County
PEEC & Bee City Los Alamos

Latin Name	Common Name	Description	Plants Used	Status
Andrenidae sp	Miner Bees	Solitary, ground-nesting in temperate, arid areas active at dusk and early evening. Emerge very early in Spring. All species have velvety patches between their eyes & at the base of their antennae. They vary greatly in size. https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/57668-Andrenidae	Chokecherry, Early blooming plants	
Agapostemon sp	Green Sweat Bees	Generally blue or green in color. Not attracted to sweat. Ground nesting, often in communal colonies. https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/50086-Agapostemon	Favor flowers with high densities	
Anthophora sp	Digger Bees	One of the largest families of bees. Solitary, but many nest in large aggregations. https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/57682-Anthophora		
Anthophora californica	California Digger Bee	https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/308726-Anthophora-californica		* 1 observation as of 09/16/24
Anthophora montana		https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/213789-Anthophora-montana		* 1 observation as of 09/16/24
Anthophora urbana	Urbane Digger Bee	https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/57681-Anthophora-urbana		* 2 observations as of 09/16/24
Astatinae	Subfamily of Solitary wasps			*1 observation as of 09/16/24
Bombus fervidus	Great Northern Bumblebee	Yellow colored abdomen & thorax similar to Bombus californicus. https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/52774-Bombus-fervidus		Vulnerable globally

				* 1 observation as of 09/16/24
Bombus griseocollis	Brown Belted Bumblebee	iNaturalist says this is not native to the Southwest but it is in our observations. https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/120215-Bombus-griseocollis		* 4 observations as of 09/16/24
Bombus huntii	Hunt's Bumblebee	Ground nesting, active in summer and fall. Orange band on thorax. https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/154043-Bombus-huntii	Thistles, sunflowers, currants, rudbeckias, clovers, penstemons, phacelia, rabbitbrush	Experiencing declines but still the most common species in N. Am. *32 observations as of 09/16/24
Bombus mixtus	Fuzzy Horned Bumblebee	Ground nesting or at surface in chaparral, shrubland & open grassy habitat in mountains. https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/319125-Bombus-mixtus	Penstemons, phacelias, ceanonthus, fireweed, coyote mint, groundsels.	
Bombus morrisoni	Morrison's Bumblebee	Nests underground or on surface in grassy bundles in open scrub habitat. https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/324278-Bombus-morrisoni	Milkweed, milkvetch, sunflowers, goldenrod, bee plant, thistles, alfalfa.	Vulnerable globally *10 observations as of 09/16/24
Bombus nevadensis	Nevada Bumble Bee	Has a long tongue, with short fur, 1 st three segments are yellow and the rest are black. Nests underground in open prairies &	Milkvetches, thistles,	* 1 observation

		meadows. https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/341001-Bombus-nevadensis	monarda, penstemons, phacelias, salvias, betony, clovers.	as of 09/16/24
Bombus pennsylvanicus	American Bumblebee	https://bugguide.net/node/view/65631	Prefers Clovers & Sunflowers	Listed as Vulnerable * 1 observation as of 09/16/24
Calliopsis subalpina		https://bugguide.net/node/view/276402	Visits Sphaeralcea, Argemone, Baileya, Abronia	* 1 observation as of 09/16/24
Caupolicana sp	Plasterer Bee	Also known as Anthophora: https://bugguide.net/node/view/607182		
Ceratina sp	Small Carpenter Bees	https://bugguide.net/node/view/15027 Stem-nesting bees		* 1 observation as of 09/16/24
Chalybion californicum	NearcticBlue Mud Dauber Wasp	Blue-black with iridescent wings. Feeds on nectar. Larvae feed on spiders. https://bugguide.net/node/view/5458		* 1 observation as of 09/16/24
Colletes sp	Cellophane Bees	Ground nesting bees in aggregations. Resemble honeybees. https://bugguide.net/node/view/15935		
Diadasia diminuta	Globe Mallow Bee	Ground nesting in colonies with little turrets/chimneys above ground. https://bugguide.net/node/view/230364	Specialize on Globemallows	* 2 observations as of 09/16/24
Eucerceris provancheri	Wasp	https://bugguide.net/node/view/82990		* 1 observation

				as of 09/16/24
Eumelissodes	Subgenus of bee	https://bugguide.net/node/view/173570		* 1 observation as of 09/16/24
Eupeodes volucris	Large-tailed Aphid Eater/ Bird Hover Fly	In the Flower Fly family https://bugguide.net/node/view/14854		
Halictidae sp	Sweat Bees			
Halictus farinosus	Brown winged Furrow Bee	https://bugguide.net/node/view/26605	Generalist that visits a wide range of flowers, including Sticky Gumweed, Sunflowers, Helenium, Goldenrod	* 1 observation as of 09/16/24
Halictus rubicundus	Orange-legged Furrow Bee	Ground nesting bee. Solitary. https://bugguide.net/node/view/22217	Generalist that visits a wide range of flowers, including Rhus, Lomatium, Cirsium, Erigeron and more	* 1 observation as of 09/16/24
Halictus tripartitus	Tripartite Sweat Bee	Metallic Green Color sets it apart from other Halictus. https://bugguide.net/node/view/94843	Generalist that visits a wide range of flowers, including Yarrow, Asters,	* 1 observation as of 09/16/24

			Sunflowers and more	
Hylaeus sp	Yellow Faced Bees	Shiny & hairless bee with yellow and black markings resembling a wasp. Stem nesting. https://www.greatsunflower.org/hylaeus	Carry pollen & nectar internally so it is hard to say what flowers they use.	* 2 observations as of 09/16/24
Isodontia sp	Grass Carrying Wasps	Nest in tree hollows or stems & twigs. Often found in the outer tracks of windows. Adults use nectar. Larvae eat tree crickets, among other insects. https://bugguide.net/node/view/5691		* 1 observation as of 09/16/24
Lasioglossum sisymbrii	Tansy Mustard Sweat Bees	Active January-November. Striped, often hairless abdomen. Common & widespread in the west. https://bugguide.net/node/view/80335	Generalist bee that visits many flowers, including Yarrow, Chamisa, Erigeron, Senecio, Goldenrod, Desert willow among others	* 2 observations as of 09/16/24
Lithurgopsis apicalis	Orange Tipped Wood Digger Bee	Often has bright orange hairs at the tip of the abdomen. Wood nesting bees. https://bugguide.net/node/view/134687	Specialize on Cactus, including Opuntias	* 1 observation as of 09/16/24
Genus Macrotera	Goblin Bees	https://bugguide.net/node/view/193634	Feed primarily on Opuntia cactus	* 1 observation as of 09/16/24
Martinapis sp	Long Horned Bee	The males have very long "horns" https://bugguide.net/node/view/607722	Generalist that can be found on Sunflowers,	

			Lavender and other flowers.	
Megachile sp	Leaf Cutter Bee	https://bugguide.net/node/view/30569	Major pollinators of Alfalfa. Found on Chamisa and other flowers as well.	
Megachiloides	Subgenus	https://bugguide.net/node/view/174146		* 1 observation as of 09/16/24
Melissodes sp	Long Horned Bee	https://bugguide.net/node/view/25459		
Melissodes communis	Common Long Horned Bee	https://bugguide.net/node/view/79490	Found on Asclepias tuberosum, Thistle, Coreopsis, Erigeron, Grindelia, Desert Willow, Opuntia and more	* 1 observation as of 09/16/24
Nomadinae sp	Cuckoo Bee	Lack pollen transporting apparatus and resemble wasps. They lay their eggs in host nests. Parasites in the nests of other bees. Very early Spring emergence. https://bugguide.net/node/view/15025		
Paratiphia sp	Tiphiid Wasp	Black and white wasp with pointy tail. https://bugguide.net/node/view/92218/bgimage?from=137		
Peponapis sp	Squash Bee	Solitary, ground nesting bees https://bugguide.net/node/view/83552	Specialize on pollen from squash only	

Pepsis thisbe	Thisbe's Tarantula Hawk Wasp	Very large wasp. Females can deliver a painful sting, but will not sting unless provoked. Adults feed on nectar but females will kill a tarantula and take it back to her nest where she lays an egg in the live spider and then traps it underground for the larvae. Males do not sting. https://www.nps.gov/articles/tarantula-hawk.htm		
Philanthus sp	Bee Wolves	Wasps that hunt and kill bees. Ground nesting. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beewolf		
Polistes aurifer	Golden Paper Wasp	https://bugguide.net/node/view/24972		
Pyrobombus	Subgenus of Bombus (Bumblebees)	Orange abdomens. Often called Fiery tailed Bees. Relatively small and can be kind of "shaggy". Ground nesting or under leaf litter. https://bugguide.net/node/view/240705	Important pollinators of apples and blueberries among other flowers.	
Sceliphron caementarium	Yellow-legged Mud-dauber wasp	Solitary wasp that hunts spiders. Rarely stings. Yellow and black legs. https://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/MISC/WASPS/Sceliphron_caementarium.htm		* 1 observation as of 09/16/24
Scoliinae	Scoliid Wasp	Nest in soil or decaying vegetation. Solitary wasps that are beetle parasites. https://www.waspweb.org/Scolioidea/Scoliidae/Scoliinae/index.htm		
Sphecinae sp	Thread Waisted Wasp	Ground and stem nesting wasps with very thin "waist". Larvae feed on spiders, grasshoppers & caterpillars. Adults feed on nectar, honeydew and prey body fluids. https://bugguide.net/node/view/135		
Sphechneumon	Great Golden Sand Digger Wasp	Head & thorax has golden hairs. Ground nesting. Feeds on insects like crickets. https://bugguide.net/node/view/414.Great+Golden+Digger+Wasp+Sphecidae:+Sphechneumon+GroomingPhotographed		* 1 observation as of 09/16/24

Vespula pensylvanica	Western Yellowjacket	Yellow and black, hairless ground nesting wasp. The source of many playground stings. Preys on other insects and is drawn to meat at picnics. https://www.cabidigitallibrary.org/doi/full/10.1079/cabicompendium.56670		
Xylocopinae sp	Carpenter Bee	Stem and wood nesting large bees that resemble bumblebees in size. https://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/misc/bees/xylocopa.htm https://bugguide.net/node/view/262		