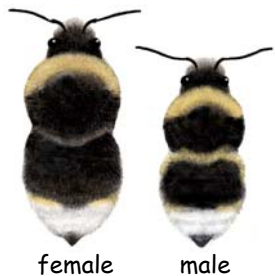


## Two more southerly bumblebees: becoming commoner in the north?



**Buff-tailed Bumblebee** *B. terrestris* (1) and **Red-tailed Bumblebee** *B. lapidarius* (2). The very large queens are distinctive. Buff-tailed workers are almost identical to White-tailed workers. Red-tailed males look similar to the **Blaeberry Bumblebee** *B. monticola* (3), a scarce upland bee in Caithness & Sutherland—can you tell the difference?



### **Gypsy Cuckoo Bumblebee**

*Bombus bohemicus*

Invades the nests of the White-tailed Bumblebee. There are no workers. Cuckoo bumblebees lack the distinctive 'pollen baskets' of the other bumblebees.



## Bumblebees of Caithness & Sutherland

**Bumblebee Conservation Trust**  
[www.bumblebeeconservation.org](http://www.bumblebeeconservation.org)

School of Biological & Environmental Sciences,  
University of Stirling, Stirling, FK9 4LA



Yellow, with a black  
band between the wings.  
UK Priority Species

### Bumblebee facts

- There are currently 24 bumblebee species in the UK, with 18 of these in Scotland.
- The Short-haired Bumblebee was last seen in 1988, and declared extinct in 2000.
- Nearly all are declining. Some are now very rare.
- They need flower-rich habitat from spring to autumn.
- You can help in your garden or on your land.

**The Great Yellow Bumblebee** *Bombus distinguendus* was once widespread over the UK, but is now found only in parts of North and West Scotland. It is present in a few coastal parts of Caithness & Sutherland and is seen mainly from June to August.

**Have you seen this bee?!**

Images not to scale

*Saving the Sound of Summer!* To support our work and help reverse bumblebee declines, join the Bumblebee Conservation Trust today!

UK charity number 1115634

## Confusing ginger bees!



### Moss Carder Bee

*Bombus muscorum*

Problematic as the Common Carder bee is very similar, though can be learned with patience and practice! Found on coastal, flower-rich grassland and on heather moorland.

Top tip. Bumblebee queens and workers collect pollen on special structures on the hind legs, the 'pollen baskets'.

These have few hairs, and slope inwards a bit from the edges. As a result they often look black and shiny—easier to see the bigger the bee!



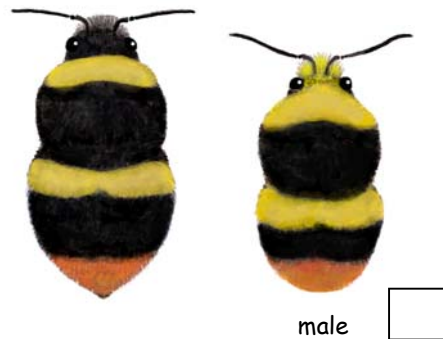
Watch out for bumblebees collecting pollen today!



### Common Carder Bee

*Bombus pascuorum*

Found almost everywhere, and very hard to tell from the Moss Carder Bee in mainland Scotland and often warmer-coloured than shown here.

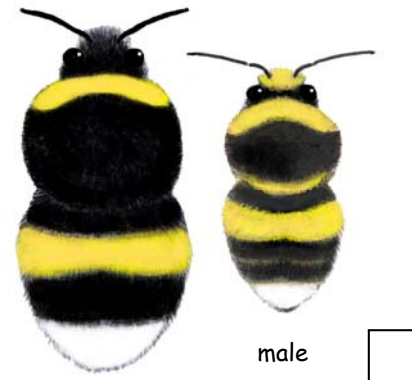


### Early Bumblebee

*Bombus pratorum*

A small bumblebee, often common in gardens. Workers can be tiny and have the second yellow band missing. The bright males are one of the first to be seen (from June).

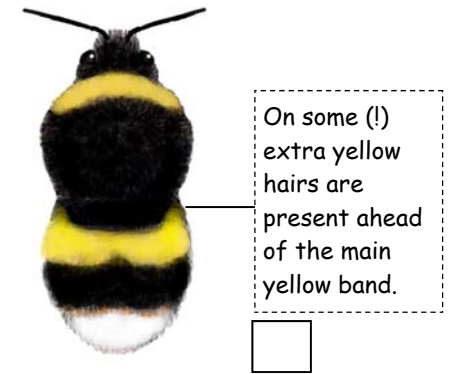
## Bumblebees with white tails



### White-tailed Bumblebee

*Bombus lucorum*

Found almost everywhere. Males have yellow faces and can have two or several yellow bands.



### Broken-belted Bumblebee

*Bombus soroeensis*

Another difficult one to identify! Found on moorland but doesn't emerge until June.



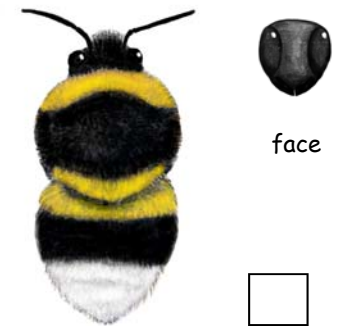
### Garden Bumblebee

*Bombus hortorum*

-Long face  
-Very long tongue!



face



face

### Heath Bumblebee

*Bombus jonellus*

- Short, round face  
- Short tongue

N.B. Be careful when catching bumblebees for a closer look. Queen and worker bumblebees can sting, but rarely do unless handled roughly or disturbed at the nest.