Seasonal bee communities vary in their responses local and landscape scales: implication for land managers

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Abstract

Context

There is great interest in land management practices for pollinators; however, a

quantitative comparison of landscape and local effects on bee communities is necessary to

determine if adding small habitat patches can increase bee abundance or species richness.

The value of increasing floral abundance at a site is undoubtedly influenced by the

phenology and magnitude of floral resources in the landscape, but due to the complexity of

measuring landscape-scale resources, these factors have been understudied.

Objectives

To address this knowledge gap, we quantified the relative importance of local versus

landscape scale resources for bee communities, identified the most important metrics of

local and landscape quality, and evaluated how these relationships vary with season.

Methods

We studied season-specific relationships between local and landscape quality and wild-

bee communities at 33 sites in the Finger Lakes region of New York, USA. We paired site

surveys of wild bees, plants, and soil characteristics with a multi-dimensional assessment

of landscape composition, configuration, insecticide toxic load, and a spatio-temporal

evaluation of floral resources at local and landscape scales.

Results

We found that the most relevant spatial scale varied by season. Spring bees depended

on landscape resources, but summer bees responded more to local quality, implying that

site-level management is most likely to be successful in supporting summer bees. Semi-

natural habitats, including forests, wetlands, and other aquatic habitats, were particularly

important for spring bees.

Conclusions

By considering spatial and temporal variation in resources, we developed season-

specific recommendations to improve habitat quality for wild bees and offset manifold

stressors threatening these essential pollinators.

Keywords: wild bees, landscape floral resources, floral phenology, soil fertility, landscape
composition and configuration

1. Introduction

There is great interest in developing approaches for translational ecology (Schlesinger 2010; Enquist et al. 2017), where research is designed to provide stakeholders with information they can use to address challenges. Because of the importance of pollinators for agricultural production and resilience of ecological communities, there has been substantial investment in land management practices to increase abundance and diversity of pollinator populations. Indeed, from 2006-2016, the United States and Europe spent more than 35 billion USD on agri-environment schemes (Ansell et al. 2016), including practices targeting pollinators. While most conservation practices tend to be implemented at local scales, many recent studies of pollinator ecology focus on landscape-level phenomena, creating a disconnect with the scale at which conservation is implemented. In addition, despite documented seasonal shifts in pollinator communities and the floral resources on which they depend for nutrition, temporally resolved information on pollinator and floral communities is typically not considered. To best inform agri-environment schemes, it is necessary to understand how local and landscape quality, across seasons, co-influence pollinator communities.

Conservation practices typically ameliorate very small proportions of landscapes that pollinators experience. The spatial extent of a landscape should be 'organism-defined' (Wiens 1976), which for wild bees is typically based on the foraging distance of the bee community of interest. In the Mid-Atlantic USA, the mean foraging range of wild bees is approximately 500 m (Bartomeus et al. 2013; Kammerer et al. 2016), which, assuming equal foraging in all directions from a central nest, corresponds to a landscape of approximately 79 ha. In this region, the mean area of a habitat patch is only about 0.17 ha,

or 0.2% of the 79-ha landscape (M Kammerer, *unpublished analyses*) illustrating that

conservation practices implemented in one patch of habitat (site) improve a very small

proportion of the landscape that pollinators experience. Empirical data are lacking, but

based on common suggestions of adding habitat in roadsides, field edges, or other marginal

land (Hopwood 2008; Morandin and Kremen 2013), it is likely that most pollinator

plantings in the Mid-Atlantic USA are quite small (< 1 ha), and likely inadequate to solely

support whole bee communities (McCullough et al. 2021).

If landscape quality is a primary driver of bee communities, and conservation practices

improve only a small section of a landscape, how likely are conservation practices to

benefit wild-bee populations? A quantitative comparison of local and landscape effects is

necessary to decide not where, but if adding small patches of wild-bee habitat is likely to

realize a measurable increase in bee abundance or richness (Gonthier et al. 2014), although

it is challenging to evaluate on a larger scale how populations are affected (Kleijn et al.

2018; Scherber et al. 2019). Quantitative syntheses of agroecosystems across the globe

found abundance of wild bees increased with more complex landscapes and diverse local

plant communities or vegetation types (Kennedy et al. 2013; Shackelford et al. 2013).

Richness of all wild bees also increased with landscape quality, and, for solitary bees only,

locally diversified fields supported more species (Kennedy et al. 2013). Comparing the

effect of different scales, some studies have shown that local context matters more than

landscape quality (Coutinho et al. 2018; Rollin et al. 2019), but there are also examples

where landscape effects dominated (Bartholomée et al. 2020; Griffin et al. 2021; Coutinho

et al. 2021) or compensated for intensively managed agriculture or local contexts that are

otherwise challenging for wild-bee communities (Rundlöf et al. 2008; Papanikolaou et al.

2017).

Between spring and summer, composition of wild-bee communities changes

substantially, which could lead to seasonal variation in importance of local and landscape

resources. In the mid-Atlantic USA, there is substantial turnover in bee species present in

spring (before mid-May) versus summer and fall (Kammerer et al. 2021; Turley et al.

2022). With changes in composition of the bee community comes seasonal variation in

several important functional traits including voltinism, overwintering location, and body

size (Osorio-Canadas et al. 2018). Body size is strongly linked to species' typical foraging

distances (Greenleaf et al. 2007), likely dictating the relative importance of local and

landscape resources. However, to our knowledge, no studies have examined seasonal

variation in dependence of bees on local vs. landscape resources. Moreover, habitats vary

widely in the magnitude and timing of floral and nesting resources that they provide for

bees (Ogilvie and Forrest 2017), which can lead to temporally variable relationships

between wild-bee communities and land use (Cole et al. 2017; Galpern et al. 2021)

To facilitate translating results of landscape-scale studies to applied management and

conservation, pollination ecologists should quantify landscape quality based on specific,

seasonal resources and risks. But due to the complexity of measuring flowers, nesting, or

pesticide risk at the landscape-scale, these factors have been understudied (but see Guezen

and Forrest 2021; Smart et al. 2021; Bloom et al. 2021). Instead, most studies have

described landscape quality using broad landscape metrics, such as percent semi-natural

habitat (Ricketts et al. 2008; Kennedy et al. 2013). Broad land-use metrics are correlated

with many aspects of bee health and community composition (Kennedy et al. 2013;

Martínez-Núñez et al. 2020; Du Clos et al. 2020), but are less useful for applied

conservation decisions, as land use is an indirect, rather than direct, driver of bee

abundance and diversity (Roulston & Goodell, 2011). Land-use patterns dictate floral and

nesting availability (Williams and Kremen 2007), pesticide risk, and disturbance regimes

(mowing, tillage, logging), so representing landscape quality based solely on amount of

semi-natural habitat cannot untangle relative importance of multiple drivers. Furthermore,

different semi-natural habitat types vary in how many food resources they provide

(Bartual et al. 2019), and documenting bee responses to broad land-use patterns precludes

determining which habitats are most important for bees and how and when to offset

resource scarcity.

To address these knowledge gaps and inform conservation practices for wild bees, we

studied season-specific relationships, over a two-year period, between local and landscape

quality and wild-bee communities at 33 sites in the Finger Lakes region of New York, USA.

We paired field surveys of wild bees, plants, and soil characteristics at each site with a

multi-dimensional assessment of landscape quality, including landscape composition,

configuration, insecticide risk, and data generated from a novel, spatio-temporal evaluation

of floral resources at the local and landscape scales (described in Iverson et al, in review for

this issue). As part of our local-scale assessment, we measured soil characteristics because

many species of wild bees nest in the soil (Harmon-Threatt 2020) and soil fertility

influences floral abundance, quality and quantity of floral rewards, and resulting bee

visitation (Carvalheiro et al. 2021). We included insecticide risk to wild bees in our

quantification of landscape quality as myriad evidence shows insecticide exposure can

negatively influence bee behavior and reproduction and that insecticides used locally can

have far-reaching consequences (Goulson et al. 2015; Long and Krupke 2016).

We ask the following research questions: 1) What is the relative importance of local

versus landscape scale in driving bee richness and abundance? 2) Which metrics of local

and landscape quality best explain wild-bee abundance and richness? And 3) How do the

relationships in (1) and (2) vary with season? Within these broad objectives, we were also

able to identify which types of semi-natural habitat were the most important for spring and

summer bee communities and how temporal variation in floral resources at local and

landscape scales affects abundance and richness of wild bees. Due to a higher prevalence of

cavity-nesting, large-bodied social species with longer foraging ranges in summer bee

communities, we predicted that summer bee abundance and richness would be strongly

linked with landscape quality, while smaller-bodied spring bees would respond more

strongly to local floral resources and soil characteristics. Drawing on other studies in our

region documenting limited or no effect of insecticide risk on wild bees at a landscape scale

(McNeil et al. 2020; Kammerer et al. 2021), we expected that land use and floral area

metrics would be the best predictors of wild-bee communities.

2. Materials and methods

1. Study region and site selection

We studied wild-bee communities at 33 sites in the Finger Lakes region of New

York, USA (Figure 1). The Finger Lakes region is in south-central New York, and is

approximately 42% semi-natural land (almost all forest habitats), 8% developed, and 49%

agriculture, including pastureland (USDA NASS 2018). There is a regional gradient of

landscape composition, with high forest cover in the south, and increasing agricultural land

moving north and closer to the lakes. (Figure 1). In proximity to Seneca and Cayuga lakes,

the climate is relatively moderate, particularly well-suited for specialty crops like wine

grapes and tree fruit. Generally, in this region, crop diversity is quite high, especially on

small farms, which are common (USDA NASS 2019). Twelve percent and 42% of farms are

smaller than 4 ha and 20 ha, respectively (USDA NASS 2019). The small farm sizes and

relatively high amounts of semi-natural habitat means many agricultural areas in our study

region could still be considered 'complex' landscapes (Tscharntke et al. 2005). For example,

within 1 km, only five of our 33 study sites had less than 20% semi-natural habitat, and

none were below 1% semi-natural habitat (a 'cleared' landscape as defined by Tscharntke

et al. (2005).

We selected our 33 study sites from 144 locations included in a previous study

documenting plant community composition, local and landscape floral resources (Iverson

et al.) in review, see Appendix for methodology). From these sites, we selected those

corresponding to seven habitat types (mesic upland remnant forest (i.e., not previously

cleared for crops), floodplain forest, forest edge, old field, roadside ditch, mixed vegetable

farm, and apple orchard) that span a range of semi-natural to managed land use. Forest

edge plots were placed adjacent to the boundary of upland forest and neighboring habitat

(usually cropland), old fields were post-agricultural areas dominated by grasses and

goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.; *Euthamia graminifolia*), and mixed vegetable farms were

relatively small-scale farms that grew a diversity of fruits and vegetables. We selected the

33 sites from the initial 144 locations in Iverson (in review) based on attaining a sufficient

sample size of each of the seven selected habitat types and on maintaining a minimum

distance between sites. To ensure we were sampling independent bee communities, we

chose sites that were, at minimum, one km from all other sites which, in our study region,

exceeds the mean foraging range of a typical community of wild bees (Kammerer et al.

2016).

2. Wild-bee survey

At each of our 33 sites, in 2018 and 2019, we measured bee species richness and

abundance using bee bowls according to the protocol of a long-term bee monitoring

program in our region (Droege et al. 2016). In each year, we sampled bees in late

April/early May and again in mid-July; dates were selected to correspond to peak floral

abundance in forest, wetland, and successional habitats (Iverson et al. in review). We filled

fluorescent blue, fluorescent yellow, and white, 355 mL Solo polystyrene plastic cups with

50:50 mix of propylene glycol and water. We placed bee bowls at the height of dominant

vegetation for 7-14 d of sampling. In spring, we deployed bee bowls for 14 d, while, in

summer, trap liquid evaporated more quickly, which limited our sampling to 7 d. At each

site, we arranged bee bowls in 80-m transects in visible areas, alternating bowl color with

10 m between each bowl, for a total of 9 bowls per site. We placed the middle of our

transects at the center of Iverson et al.'s (in review) plant survey plots, based on the

recorded GPS coordinate, or, at some locations, physical flags marking the plot outline.

After collection, we stored bee specimens in 70% ethyl alcohol solution until

pinning and sorting. We washed, pinned, and identified bee specimens, to species when

possible, with taxonomic assistance from collaborators, including Dr. David Biddinger

(Penn State Center for Pollinator Research, Biglerville, PA), and Dr. Rob Jean

(Environmental Solutions & Innovations, Inc., Indianapolis, IN). We sorted specimens in the

Nomada "bidentate" group to morphospecies, as this group is poorly resolved in existing

taxonomic keys (Droege et al. 2010; Ascher and Pickering 2013). Also, some *Lasioglossum*

specimens were damaged during collection or processing (n=50), so we could not reliably

determine species identity. We excluded these specimens from richness analyses that

required species-level identification. For all species, voucher specimens were deposited in

the Frost Entomological Museum at The Pennsylvania State University in University Park,

PA.

3. Local quality metrics

For each site, we measured soil characteristics and calculated plant species richness,

community composition, and floral area from existing data (Iverson et al. in review).

1. *Soil collection and processing*

In May 2018, we collected soil from each of our 33 study sites. Along the bee

sampling transect, we collected five soil samples with a bucket auger to a depth of 9-18 cm,

depending on rock and moisture content. We took shallower soil cores (9-12cm) at sites

with very rocky or wet (floodplain habitat) subsoil. Wild-bee nesting would likely be

inhibited by very high rock content or completely saturated subsoils (Harmon-Threatt

2020), so we considered the shallower sampling depth representative of the most

favorable zone for bee nests. To quantify bulk density, at two locations along the bee

transect, we collected three undisturbed soil cores (0-3 cm, 4-6 cm, and 7-9cm deep) with a

slide hammer sampler (Soilmoisture Equipment Corp, Goleta, CA). Due to high moisture or

rock content at some sites, we were only able to collect two bulk density cores, but we

recorded the number of cores in each sample. For processing and analysis, we combined

bulk density cores from all depths.

After collection, for all soil samples, we measured wet mass, then dried samples in

an oven at 60°C for five days (or until the mass did not decrease) and measured dry mass.

We calculated bulk density from dry mass and sent bucket-auger samples to the Penn State

Agricultural Analytical Services Laboratory, where they measured pH, P, K, Mg, Ca, Zn, Cu,

S, total nitrogen by combustion, percent organic matter, and percentage sand, silt, and clay

via standard laboratory methods (Penn State Agricultural Analytical Services Lab). To

summarize trends in soil characteristics, we centered and standardized soil variables and

conducted a principal components analysis with the *stats* package in R (R Core Team

2021).

2. *Plant species richness, abundance, community composition, and floral area*

We designed our study to leverage an existing, comprehensive plant survey

conducted in the greater Ithaca region, NY (Iverson et al. in review, see Appendix). In 2016

and 2017, Iverson et al. (in review) documented plant species richness and abundance at

144 sites across the most common habitat types (N=22) in the surveyed region that span

across the broader classes of forest, agriculture, wetland, successional, and developed.

Briefly, Iverson et al. (in review) surveyed 3-20 sites of each habitat type based on

variability among sites, with a median of ~5 sites/habitat type. They used a Modified

Whittaker plot design (Stohlgren et al. 1995) with halved dimensions, equating to a 10 x 25

m plot with nested subplots of varying sizes. They recorded plant cover by species in ten

0.25 m² quadrats and species presence in all other subplots and in the full plot. Overall

plant coverage was estimated based on frequency in larger subplots and coverage in the

0.25 m² quadrats. Furthermore, they recorded the species abundance of all mature, i.e.,

potentially flowering, angiosperm trees.

Using a combination of survey data and flower density and size measurements for each

species observed, Iverson et al. (in review) estimated floral area per species in each site. To

estimate flower density, for each species, they measured the number of flowers in a 0.25 m²

quadrat during peak bloom and measured flower size in the field, from herbaria specimens,

or from published sizes in online plant databases. Then, utilizing bloom dates published in

a flora specific to the region, they estimated FA across the bloom window of each plant

species. Finally, they calculated the daily average FA per m² of each of the sampled habitat

types by averaging the sum of the FA, weighted by percent cover, of each of the flowering

plant species present across all plots in each habitat type (excluding apple blossoms in

'apple orchard' habitat, in order to capture only orchard-floor floral resources).

For our analysis, we summarized site-level FA curves with seven metrics: season total

FA, minimum FA, maximum FA, FA coefficient of variation, and total FA in spring, summer,

and fall. For total, maximum, and coefficient of variation, we summarized FA from April to

mid-November. We quantified minimum FA from a narrower timeframe associated with

more rapid plant growth (mid-May to mid-September) to avoid all sites receiving similarly

low values associated with the beginning or end of the season. We defined 'spring' as early

April to mid-June (day-of-year 92 to 163), 'summer' as mid-June to late August (day-of-year

164 to 238) and 'fall' as late August to mid-November (day-of-year 239 to 310). We

generated two versions of each FA metric, one that represents the FA of all plants, and the

second that only includes plant species that are known to be pollinated by insects ('IP

plants', Iverson et al. in review).

From the plant survey data, we also quantified plant species richness, relative

abundance, and community composition for our 33 study sites. We calculated species

richness of all plants, species richness of insect-pollinated plants, and percent cover of all

vegetation. We used non-metric multi-dimensional scaling (NMDS) ordination with a Bray-

Curtis distance measure to quantify the main gradients in plant-community composition.

Specifically, with the *vegan* package in R (Oksanen et al. 2013), we summarized the

similarity between plant communities at all 144 sites surveyed by Iverson et al. (in review)

and visualized the results in two dimensions. To determine the effect of varying

composition of plant communities on bee abundance and richness at our 33 study sites, we

included scores from the first two NMDS axes as predictor variables in our analyses.

4. Landscape quality metrics

1. Landscape composition and configuration

To describe the land cover surrounding our study sites, we used a high-resolution

map of land cover available for our study region (Iverson et al. in review). This product

utilized a regional 1m resolution dataset of land cover (Chesapeake Conservancy 2013) to

differentiate impervious surface, trees, and low vegetation and a regional natural habitat

map (Ferree and Anderson 2013) and the USDA Cropland Data Layer (USDA NASS 2018) to

resolve more detailed natural and agricultural habitats, respectively. Wetland habitats

were incorporated using the National Wetlands Inventory data (U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service 2017) and a 'roadside ditch' habitat class was created by adding a 3m buffer on

either side of non-urban roads.

From this high-resolution land-cover map, we calculated landscape composition and

configuration within 1 km radius of each of our sampling sites. We selected this distance

because, excluding large-bodied *Bombus* sp., most wild-bee species in our region forage

within 1km of their nests (Kammerer et al., 2016). We grouped land-cover classes to form

six metrics of landscape composition: percentage of the landscape in agriculture, forest,

successional (old field and shrubland), wetlands, water, and developed habitats (Table S1).

Based on previous research examining landscape configuration effects on wild bees

(Kennedy et al. 2013), we also calculated six landscape configuration metrics to represent

the aggregation, shape, and diversity of habitat patches around our sampling sites.

Specifically, using the *landscapemetrics* package, version 1.4.2, in R (Hesselbarth et al.

2019; R Core Team 2021), we calculated edge density, Shannon diversity of land cover

classes, Simpson diversity of land cover classes, mean perimeter-area ratio, variation in

nearest neighbor distance between patches of the same class, and interspersion and

juxtaposition indices.

2. Landscape insecticide toxic load

To represent risk to wild bees from insecticide applied to agricultural crops, we

calculated an index of insecticide toxic load. We generated the index of insecticide toxic

load (Douglas et al. 2021) using our high-resolution land cover maps and insecticide data

from 2014, as this is the most recent year with a complete, publicly available dataset of

insecticide application. We estimated insecticide risk at our sampling sites in three steps.

First, we calculated a distance-weighted metric of landscape composition from the high-

resolution land cover data (see *Landscape composition and configuration*) with the

'distweight_lulc' function in the *beecoSp* R package (Kammerer and Douglas 2021). For

distance-weighting, we selected a wild-bee foraging range of 500 m, which assumes, from

the center of each study site, 70% and 100% of bee foraging occurs within 500-m and 1-km

radii, respectively. Then, for each land-cover class, we multiplied distance-weighted area by

the insecticide-toxic-load coefficient for a given land cover. Finally, for each study site, we

calculated total insecticide toxic load as the sum of insecticide load from all land cover

classes within a 1-km landscape. Without *a priori* knowledge of the most likely route of

insecticide exposure for each active ingredient, we used insecticide values corresponding

to the mean of oral and contact toxicity (Douglas et al. 2021).

3. Floral area of landscapes

We quantified the floral area of landscapes in three steps. First, we averaged floral

area at all sites within a land-cover class to calculate habitat-level FA per day per ha of

habitat. Then, for each land-cover class within 1km of our study sites, we multiplied

distance-weighted area (ha) in the landscape (see *Insecticide toxic load* for distance-

weighting details) by the habitat-level FA. Then, we summed over all land-cover classes,

yielding landscape-total FA per day for each of our study sites. For local and landscape

floral area, we calculated minimum FA, maximum FA, FA coefficient of variation, and total

FA in spring, summer, and fall for all plants and for insect-pollinated plant species only ('IP

plants', Iverson et al. in review).

4. Distance to water and topography

We generated distance to water and topography metrics and included these factors in our

analyses. To differentiate riparian sites very close to water, we calculated the minimum

distance from our sampling locations to water (streams, rivers, ponds, or lakes). We

identified water features closest to our sampling sites using the National Hydrography

Dataset (U.S. Geological Survey 2019a) for New York state. Lastly, we included topographic

information to represent the micro-climate at each of our sites. We calculated elevation,

slope, and aspect at each sampling site from the 1/3 arc-second (approximately 10m)

resolution USGS National Elevation Dataset (U.S. Geological Survey 2019b). We included

distance to water and topography as landscape variables because, excepting elevation, they

describe the relationship between the sampling site and surrounding water and

topographic features. However, distance to water and topography were not among the

most explanatory predictor variables (Figure 2), so if we had classified them as local

variables, our results would be largely unchanged. We used the R statistical and computing

language (R Core Team 2021), specifically the *sf* and *raster* packages (Pebesma 2018;

Hijmans 2022), for all manipulations and analyses of geospatial data.

5. Statistical analyses

1. Sampling-effort adjustment

Prior to analysis, we adjusted bee abundance and species-richness measures to

account for varying sampling effort. While we were collecting bee bowls, we recorded the

number of traps that were cracked, tipped over, or otherwise compromised. We present

abundance results as bees per successful trap per day, to adjust for varying sampling time

and lower sampling effort at sites where traps cracked or fell over. Unfortunately, for the

July 2019 sampling round, we lost our record of the number of compromised traps. To the

best of our ability, we recreated these data from memory shortly after the sampling period

by estimating the number of compromised traps per site. For wild-bee richness analyses,

we adjusted for uneven effort using coverage-based rarefaction and extrapolation (Chao

and Jost 2012), rather than the number of successful traps, so recreated data were not used

in richness analyses. Specifically, we estimated bee richness at the mean coverage level for

each season using the *iNEXT* package in R (Hsieh et al. 2016, 2018; R Core Team 2021).

2. Random forest models

We used random forest models to compare the relative importance of local vs.

landscape variables, identify the most important individual predictor variables, and

examine relationships between predictors and wild bee abundance and richness. Random

forest models are robust to correlated predictors and can represent complex, non-linear

relationships, which we expected in our dataset (Wright and Ziegler 2017). In our study

region, the composition of wild-bee communities in spring is substantially different from

summer and fall (Kammerer et al. 2021; Turley et al. 2022), so we analyzed our spring and

summer sampling periods separately. For spring analyses, we removed floral-area metrics

that represent, or were correlated with, floral resources available in summer and fall

(Figure S10). Specifically, for spring analyses, we removed summer-total-floral area and

fall-total-floral area of all plants and insect-pollinated ('IP') plants, maximum-floral area (IP

plants) and total-floral area (IP plants).

In preliminary analyses, we noticed that the number of predictor variables included

in random forest models influenced model performance and variable importance scores

(Fox et al. 2017). To compare random forest models with the same number of predictors,

we first modelled bee abundance and richness using all 72 year, landscape, and local

predictors and examined the resulting variable importance scores. Then, we selected the

top 35 predictors and generated a final model using only these predictors. We used 'top-35'

models to compare variable importance and describe relationships between bee

abundance, richness, and specific predictors (Figures 2-5). We assessed the performance of

all random forest models using 10-fold cross validation repeated 15 times, and, with a grid

search, selected the optimum number of trees (1000 to 5000, incremented by 1000) and

variables at each tree split (15 to 30, incremented by 5). We used the random forest

algorithm from the *ranger* package in R (Wright and Ziegler 2017), tuned the model with

the *caret* package (Kuhn 2008, 2019), and, to examine our results (Figures 3-5), generated

accumulated local effects (ALE) plots with the *iml* package (Molnar et al. 2018). ALE plots

depict the relative effect of changing one predictor variable and are centered at zero so

each value on the curve is the difference from the mean prediction of the random forest

model. For each season, we present local effect plots for year (Figure 5) and the top four

variables predicting bee abundance and richness (Figures 3-4).

3. Results

1. Wild-bee communities

404   In spring and summer, we documented diverse wild-bee communities. Our survey

yielded 3108 specimens, 1666 in 2018 and 1442 in 2019. We collected more bees in spring

(n=2130) compared with summer (n=987), particularly in the second year when our

summer sampling generated only 282 individuals. We documented 127 species of wild

bees of 21 genera, with 94 species present in spring and 78 in summer. *Andrena,*

Lasioglossum, and *Ceratina* were the most abundant spring genera, representing 78% of the

individuals we observed (Figure 6). At the species-level, the most abundant spring bees (>

5% spring abundance) were *Andrena carlini* Cockerell, *Ceratina calcarata* Robertson, *Osmia*

cornifrons Radoszkowski, *Ceratina dupla* Say, and *Andrena hippotes* Robertson. In summer,

Lasioglossum was the most abundant genus, followed by several other genera in the family

Halictidae (*Agapostemon, Augochlora, and Halictus*). *Lasioglossum leucozonium* Schrank,

Agapostemon virescens Fabricius, *Lasioglossum versatum* Robertson, *Peponapis pruinosa*

Say, and *Augochlora pura* Say were the most abundant summer species (> 5% of summer

abundance).

2.   Local quality

1.   Characterizing local quality

We characterized several dimensions of local quality for wild bees, including floral

area, plant richness and community composition, and soil characteristics. Of the seven

habitats included in our study (mesic upland remnant forest, floodplain forest, forest edge,

old field, roadside ditch, mixed vegetable farm, and apple orchard), mesic upland remnant

forest and forest edge had highest floral area, peaking in early spring (Figure 7). In summer

and fall, floral resources in all habitats were generally much lower, excepting an early-fall

peak in flowers in old fields associated with goldenrod (*Solidago* spp. and *Euthamia*

graminifolia) bloom period (Figure 7, Figure S3).

Our analysis of plant community composition revealed clear differentiation between

plant communities in different habitats. We analyzed the full set of habitat types (n=22,

Iverson et al. (in review) to capture broad gradients in composition of plant communities

that were not evident when including only our focal habitats (n =7, M Kammerer,

unpublished analyses). Considering all 22 habitats, the first ordination axis ('NMDS1')

differentiated habitat types according to the intensity of human management (Figure S1,

stress = 0.153), with unmanaged forest and wetland habitat separating from managed

agricultural and developed habitats (lawn, row crops, orchards, vegetable farms, pasture,

and hay fields). Old fields, roadside ditches, tree rows, and forest edge habitats were

intermediate, containing plants associated with managed and unmanaged habitats. In

subsequent random forest models, we included site values on NMDS axis one as a proxy for

intensity of management. The second axis was less clear, but seemed to represent a

gradient of moisture content, separating wetlands from forest and managed habitats, with

floodplain forests in the middle (Figure S1).

We found significant variation in soil characteristics between the seven habitat

types we sampled. There were two main gradients in our soil dataset revealed by the

principal components analysis (Figure S2). Explaining 26.4% of the variation in our soil

data, the first principal component was associated with pH, soil texture (percent sand, silt,

and clay), water content, organic matter, and total nitrogen. Roadside ditches had more

basic, sandier soil than any of the other habitat types, except some floodplain forest

samples. All other habitat types had loam to silt-loam soil. Interestingly, soil texture was

highly variable between floodplain forests, with soil texture in this habitat encompassing

the full range of texture classes represented at all other sites. The second principal

component explained 20.0% of variation in soil characteristics and correlated with soil clay

content, potassium, copper, phosphorus, zinc, clay content, and cation exchange capacity.

Specifically, some vegetable farm and orchard samples had much higher potassium,

phosphorus, copper, and zinc content than the other habitats, likely due to fertilizer or

manure application to support crop growth. Soils at forested sites were characterized by

higher organic matter and total nitrogen, possibly from leaf litter accumulation.

458   *2. Local quality effects on wild bees*

459   Comparing spring to summer, we documented substantially different relationships

between local quality and bee abundance (Figure 2). In spring, we observed moderate

effects of local characteristics on wild bees, with three local variables (soil potassium, soil

phosphorus, and management intensity as reflected in plant community composition)

among the top predictors of abundance or richness. Abundance of spring bees increased

with higher levels of soil potassium and lower soil phosphorus measured at the site, with

the greatest increase between approximately 75 and 125 ppm potassium (Figure S9 B-C).

Abundance of spring bees was lower in more-managed sites (Figure S9 A). In summer,

abundance of wild bees was influenced by the level of management (plant community

composition) and presence of fall-flowering plants (Figure 2). At the less-managed sites

(remnant forests and floodplain forests, NMDS axis one loading less than approximately -

0.1), we observed lower abundance of summer bees (Figure 4A). Bee abundance was

intermediate in forest edge, old field, and ditch habitats (NMDS1 =-0.1 to 0.4), and highest

in orchards and mixed vegetable farms (NMDS1 > 0.4). Sites with very low or no fall-

flowering plants also had notably lower abundance of summer bees, but, when floral area

was greater than approximately 10,000 m^2/ha of habitat, bee abundance did not increase

with additional fall flowers (Figure 4C).

For richness of wild bees, local quality had weak effects on spring and summer bees

(Figure 2). In spring, we observed approximately one additional bee species at sites with

more than 25 plant species. In summer, soil fertility, bulk density, and water content were

the most important local predictors. We documented slightly more species of bees at sites

with intermediate total soil nitrogen, bulk density, and water content, peaking at

approximately 30%, 1.18 g/cm^3, and 0.31 g/g, respectively (Figure 4F-H).

3. Landscape quality

1. Characterizing landscape quality

We noted substantial variation in the composition and configuration of landscapes

surrounding our study sites (1 km radius), while topography was more consistent (Figures

S5-S7). In our study landscapes, amount of developed land ranged from zero to

approximately 50%, while forest and natural habitats ranged from zero to more than 70%.

All landscapes surrounding our study sites were at least 18% agriculture, up to a maximum

of 91% agricultural land. Distance to the nearest water source was generally low, with a

maximum of 580 m. Most of our study sites had relatively low insecticide toxic load values,

but insecticide toxicity was substantially higher in landscapes with significant apple and

grape production (Figure S5). Edge density was the most variable configuration metric,

while the interspersion and juxtaposition index and perimeter-area ratio were more

consistent. Both Shannon and Simpson diversity indices were left-skewed, capturing the

diverse agricultural, natural, and developed land cover types present in our study region

(Figure S6).

2. *Landscape quality effects on wild bees*

In spring, we documented higher abundance of wild bees at locations with more

wetland, surface water, natural habitat, and flowers in the surrounding landscape (Figure

3A-D). In our study region, wetlands and surface water are a relatively small percentage of

most landscapes (3.42% ± 3.54%, mean ± standard deviation of wetland area), but we

found substantially higher abundance of spring bees at sites with 4-5% wetland in the

landscape compared with those that had 0-2% wetland (Figure 3A). Between

approximately 20 and 60% natural land in the landscape, abundance of spring bees

increased, likely due to additional floral resources and nesting sites (Figure 3C). Lastly, we

observed higher abundance of spring bees with more variable (higher CV) landscape-level

floral area (FA, Figure 3D). In our study region, high variability in FA comes from multiple,

high peaks in spring FA from flowering trees in forested habitats (Figure 7).

For species richness of spring bees, the amount of developed land, elevation, and

distance to water in the landscape were among the best predictors. We found more species

at low elevation sites and locations with some developed land in the landscape, although

most of our study landscapes had a relatively small amount of developed land (less than

10%) (Figure 3E-F). At sites less than 100 m from water, we observed approximately two

more species of spring bees than sites that were 400 m or more from the nearest stream,

lake, river, or pond (Figure 3H).

Compared with spring, in summer, landscape effects on wild bees were moderated.

We did not detect any relationship between landscape quality and abundance of summer

bees, but three landscape variables (percent agriculture, percent natural, and north-south

aspect) were among the most important predictors of richness of summer bees (Figure 2).

We observed a threshold of approximately 55% of the landscape in agriculture, above

which richness of summer bees dropped substantially (Figure 4E). Insecticide toxic load,

slope, and landscape configuration metrics were not among the most important predictors

of spring or summer bee communities.

4. Relative importance of year, local, and landscape quality for wild bees

Generally, with our 72 local and landscape-quality metrics, we were able to explain

a substantial amount of the variation in wild-bee abundance and richness. Modeling

abundance of bees in both seasons, we explained more than 38% of the variation in our

data using year, local, and landscape variables (Table 1). We had more unexplained

variation for species richness, with mean r-squared values of 20% and 28% for the best

random forest models in spring and summer, respectively (Table 1). Across all models,

however, our prediction error was very high (72%-108% of mean abundance or richness,

Table 1), indicating we are unable to reliably predict bee communities in additional

locations or years. As a result, we focused on presenting relationships among landscape

and local quality and bee abundance and richness, rather than prediction.

Comparing landscape, year, and local predictors, we found generally that landscape

variables and year explained more of the variation in bee abundance and richness than

local quality. However, the importance of local versus landscape scale was different for

abundance and richness models and varied by season (Figure 2). For abundance of spring

bees and richness of summer bees, landscape variables were the most important predictors

(Figure 2). In spring, year was, by far, the most important predictor of species richness,

with more species of spring bees in 2019 than 2018 (Figure 5). In addition to year, for

richness of spring bees, we observed weak effects of landscape composition, but only one

local variable was among the best predictors (Figure 2). Year was also the most important

predictor of abundance of summer bees, but, unlike spring richness, local quality was

almost as important (Figure 2).

4. Discussion

In this study, we found that bee abundance and richness responded to an interplay

of landscape, local quality, and year with significant differences between spring and

summer bee communities. Though we predicted spring bees would be more dependent on

local quality than summer bees, we instead found that spring abundance and spring and

summer richness were mostly associated with landscape quality, specifically landscape

floral resources in the springtime and percentage of landscapes occupied by wetlands,

water, natural, and agricultural habitats. Summer abundance was significantly affected by

local conditions, including soil fertility, plant-community composition, and local-scale floral

resources in the fall. Consistent with our previous studies, predicted insecticide risk in the

landscape was not a significant factor for the wild bee communities in our study. Here, we

discuss wild-bee responses to landscape, then local quality, with recommendations for

designing conservation practices and suggestions for future research.

Wetlands and surface water were very important landscape features for supporting

spring bees; therefore, we expect that restoring or conserving relatively small patches of

these habitats could substantially improve landscape quality in spring. We observed more

species of spring bees closer to water, indicating that terrestrial-aquatic interfaces likely

support specialist bees or plant species important for spring bees (Stewart et al. 2017).

This pattern underscores the short foraging distance of many wild-bee species in our study

region, as bee richness decreased substantially only 200m removed from water. In our

study region, wetland habitats, especially shrub and emergent wetlands, host a unique

community of plants, including some herbaceous flowering plants not found in other

habitats (Figure S1). Several of the plant species associated with floodplain and emergent

wetland habitats are recommended for pollinator plantings (e.g. *Eutrochium purpureum,*

Helianthus decapetalus; Byers et al., n.d.), or are closely related to known pollinator-

attractive species (e.g. *Bidens cernua, Hydrophyllum canadense, Stachys hispida*), suggesting

they might also provide pollen or nectar resources for wild bees (Tuell et al. 2008). There

are relatively few studies documenting wild-bee communities in wetlands, although most

report rich bee communities in and around water and wetland habitats (Stewart et al.

2017; Vickruck et al. 2019), including presence of some threatened species (Moroń et al.

2008). In our study, relatively small areas of wetlands in a landscape correlated with higher

bee abundance and richness, so we conclude that surface water and wetland habitats

would be feasible targets of conservation programs seeking to improve landscape quality

for wild bees. Also, wetlands host many other insect, birds, and amphibian taxa (Riffell et al.

2003; Gibbons et al. 2006; O'Neill and O'Neill 2010), and thus wetland restoration and

conservation could contribute more broadly to biodiversity goals. These findings also

confirm the importance of existing programs that protect wetland habitat from agricultural

and urban development.

In spring, wild bees are heavily dependent on resources provided by the surrounding

landscape, most likely from mass flowering of trees in forest habitats. We found more

spring bees at sites with multiple, high peaks in spring floral resources from flowering

trees in forests. Past research has documented a diverse wild-bee community in tree

canopies (Urban-Mead et al. 2021) and demonstrated that solitary bees consume spring

pollen from wind-pollinated trees (Kraemer and Favi 2010). In our study, spring bee

abundance was positively associated with floral resources provided by the entire plant

community (wind and insect pollinated plants) reinforcing the finding that these bees use

trees not traditionally thought to be 'insect pollinated', such as oaks (*Quercus* spp.),

hickories (*Carya* spp.), birches (*Betula* spp.), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), and

maples (*Acer* spp.). The pattern we observed suggests that spring bees were able to take

advantage of very large pulses of floral resources such that short periods of mass flowering

may be equally beneficial as consistently high levels of flowering (Hemberger et al. 2020).

In summer, diversified vegetable farms and apple orchards hosted high abundance

of bees, but not all species persisted in highly managed landscapes. In mid-summer, old

fields had more floral resources than agricultural habitats (Figure 7), but plant

communities in orchards and mixed vegetable farms hosted higher bee abundance. We

speculate that, in these agricultural habitats, flowers of crop plants and weeds in

fencerows, fallow, or between-row sections of fields are particularly important floral

resources for bees. Indeed, many studies have documented the importance of weeds in

providing forage for bees in both agricultural and urban areas (Norris and Kogan 2005;

Bretagnolle and Gaba 2015; Requier et al. 2015; Rollin et al. 2016). Also, most of the farms

and orchards we sampled were not intensively tilled or have substantial untilled area in

proximity, which likely benefits species of ground-nesting bees (Ullmann et al. 2016).

While some agricultural habitats can support relatively high bee abundance, like many

other studies (Kennedy et al. 2013; Grab et al. 2018), we documented fewer species of

summer bees in landscapes with a high proportion of agricultural land. In contrast to our

sampled vegetable and orchard crop farms, most of the agricultural land in our study was

intensively managed row crop agriculture. Similar to simplified bee communities in urban

areas, crops and weedy plants in intensively managed agricultural habitats host a subset of

all bee species, likely generalist, disturbance-tolerant species (Harrison et al. 2018).

We found that soil fertility was an important component of local habitat quality for

wild bees, potentially due to fertility effects on floral resources. Intermediate soil fertility

was associated with higher richness of wild bees in summer. We posit that soil fertility

primarily affected wild-bee communities at our study sites by mediating plant vigor and

flowering. Soil-nutrient levels influence richness and composition of plant communities

(Tilman 1987; DiTommaso and Aarssen 1989; Wilson and Tilman 1991), but, we found

little evidence that plant community shifts drove fertility effects on bees because plant

richness was a poor predictor of bee abundance and richness, and plant community

composition and soil fertility were weakly correlated (Pearson's r = -0.6, -0.52, and 0.4

between NMDS axis 1 and soil organic matter, total nitrogen, and potassium, respectively).

Other studies have shown that soil-nutrient levels influence size and number of flowers

and quality and quantity of nectar and pollen produced, with measurable effects on bee

visitation (Burkle & Irwin, 2010; Burkle & Irwin, 2009; Cardoza et al., 2012). Based on our

results, manipulating soil nutrients within restoration and conservation plantings may

increase floral resources and associated bee communities, but we need targeted

experimental research to verify that patterns we documented are consistent and strong

enough to be a successful management strategy without accompanying unintended

consequences.

For both seasons, soil texture was notably absent from our list of important local

variables. If, at the local level, wild-bee communities were limited by the availability of

nests, we expected that soil texture would have been an important soil characteristic, as

many wild bees nest in the ground or use soil for cavity partitions (Pinilla-Gallego et al.

2018; Harmon-Threatt 2020). In our study, soil texture within each study site was not a

strong predictor of bee abundance or richness, suggesting that numbers of suitable nest

sites may be governed by soil characteristics within the larger landscape (Hellwig et al.

2022) , which we could not capture. Few studies have quantified landscape-scale nesting

resources (Ariza et al. 2022), likely in part due to poor characterization of preferred

nesting conditions of wild bees (Harmon-Threatt 2020) and challenges associated with

existing soil maps (Cambardella et al. 1994; Moral et al. 2010). In the future, it would be

extremely valuable to quantify, at the landscape-scale, availability of soil, wood, stem, and

cavity nest sites for wild bees based on empirical data, mirroring the Iverson et al. (in

review) effort to estimate landscape floral resources.

We observed notable differences between the two years of our study, with more species

of spring bees and fewer summer bees in 2019 compared with 2018. In 2019, early spring

was warmer than 2018 and we delayed our sampling time due to logistical constraints

which likely altered the composition of the bee community we sampled. We attribute the

higher richness of spring bees in 2019 to a better match between our sampling time and

flight period of most spring bees (Kammerer et al. 2021). The differences in the summer

collections was likely also due to weather conditions in the previous year, as the summer of

2018 was extremely rainy, with near-record high precipitation (DiLiberto 2018), which

may have reduced foraging opportunities and negatively affected bee populations (Tuell

and Isaacs 2010; Vitale et al. 2020). Evaluating the effect of weather conditions on bee

communities requires multiple years of sampling, and thus we did not formally include

these variables in this study, but such analyses have been conducted in other studies

(Kammerer et al. 2021; Filazzola et al. 2021).

Though we were able to provide important insights about how local and landscape

variable influence bee communities, our study has several limitations. First, we sampled

wild bees using pan traps, which perform poorly in areas with abundant floral resources

and have some taxonomic biases, including under-sampling large bodied bees (Roulston et

al. 2007; Baum and Wallen 2011). By using pan traps, we were not able to determine if the

bees we sampled were nesting or foraging within our study site, or en route to a different

patch. We minimized, but could not completely exclude, the latter outcome by not using

extremely attractive blue vane traps (Gibbs et al. 2017). Second, our estimates of local and

landscape floral area assumed flower production is solely a function of the composition of

plant communities of a given locale. In quantifying landscape floral area, we assumed plant

communities of the same habitat type had equal numbers of flowers. In reality, the number,

size, and quality of floral resources is influenced by many factors, including temperature,

moisture availability, and soil fertility (Cardoza et al. 2012; Mu et al. 2015). For each site,

we estimated local floral area based on relative abundance of plants present at the site but

did not measure realized flowering in each year of our study. We suspect that soil fertility

influenced bee abundance and richness at our study sites by changing flower production

per unit vegetative cover, but lacking surveys of realized floral area at every site, we could

not test this hypothesis. Third, we conducted bee surveys 1-3 years after Iverson et al plant

surveys. Comparing habitat types, we expect the major trends in plant community

composition, floral area, and richness (Figures S2-S4) would be robust to this 1-3 year time

lag. In mesic upland remnant forests, floodplain forests, and forest edges, most species are

long-lived trees and shrubs, so we expect little change in plant composition and floral area.

In old fields, roadside ditches, mixed vegetable farms, and apple orchards, mowing,

spraying, or crop rotation may have shifted plant communities in the time between plant

and bee sampling. From our field observations, none of our sites experienced major

disturbances like fire or pest outbreak. Fourth, by choosing to analyze our data with

random forest models, we could not assess interactions between local and landscape

quality. Local and landscape quality metrics were only weakly correlated across scales

(minimum, mean, and maximum Pearson's r = -0.6, 0.01, and 0.56, respectively, Figure

S10), potentially suggesting independent effects of local and landscape quality, but we

could not examine these questions. Finally, while assessing conservation plantings for

pollinators, it has been a persistent challenge to assess whether adding flowers for bees

increases wild-bee populations, or just concentrates individuals in high-quality patches.

Our multi-dimensional characterization of local quality cannot definitively show that high-

quality sites improved bee fitness, compared with drawing in more individuals that were

already present in the landscape. In the future, to provide a measure of wild-bee

reproductive output, we recommend researchers use passive traps or visual observation in

tandem with nest boxes or colonies of managed bees (see Martínez-Núñez et al. 2020;

Centrella et al. 2020). Two recent studies also presented promising methods to detect

landscape-scale changes in wild-bee abundance or richness (Kleijn et al. 2018; Scherber et

al. 2019), and it would be valuable to test these methods in more complex landscapes, such

as in our study region.

5. Conclusion

In this study, we identified key components of landscape and local quality for wild bees,

generating essential targets for bee conservation programs. Building on previous research

showing that bees respond to both landscape and local resources, we found that the most

relevant spatial scale varies by season and can differ when considering bee abundance or

richness. Spring bees were heavily dependent on landscape resources, but abundance of

summer bees responded to local, rather than landscape quality, implying that site-level

management is most likely to be successful in supporting (or at least attracting) summer

bees. In highly agricultural landscapes, however, improving local quality for summer bees

will likely primarily benefit disturbance-tolerant, generalist species because rare bees are

typically absent from these landscapes (Harrison et al. 2019). By quantifying landscape-

scale floral resources, we found that semi-natural habitats, specifically forests, provision

spring bees, likely by providing large pulses of resources from flowering trees. Many areas

in our study region already have large patches of forest habitat, suggesting that adding

more trees or shrubs represents a small marginal gain when compared with existing

resources. Rather, to support spring bees in landscapes with relatively high forest cover,

we recommend targeted additions or restorations of wetlands and surface-water features,

habitats that should also provide conservation benefits for other plant and animal taxa. By

considering spatial and temporal variation in resources, we developed context and season-

specific recommendations to improve habitat quality for wild bees, a critical component of

conservation efforts to offset the manifold stressors threatening these taxa.

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Statements and Declarations

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Competing Interests

The authors have no relevant financial or non-financial interests to disclose.

Author Contributions

MK, JFT, and CMG conceived and designed the study. KL and ALI created high-resolution land-use data, ALI collected plant community composition, floral density, and flower size datasets, and MK conducted soil and wild-bee sampling. MK analyzed the data and led manuscript writing. All authors contributed critically to the drafts and gave final approval for publication.

Data Availability

All data required for the analyses presented here will be permanently archived in the Dryad Digital Repository. Code necessary to complete the analyses described here are archived on Zenodo (Kammerer 2021).

Tables and Figures

Table 1: Performance of random forest models predicting wild-bee abundance and richness at 33 sites in the Finger Lakes region of New York, USA. We show mean abundance or

richness, root mean-squared error (RMSE), r-squared (variance explained), and mean absolute error (MAE) as mean ± standard deviation from 10-fold cross validation, repeated 15 times. We tuned the number of variables at each tree split (mtry) and the number of trees (ntrees) with a grid search and present optimal values for each random forest model.

Season	Response Variable	Mean Abundance or Richness	Variables Included in RF Model	RMSE	R-squared	MAE	mtry	ntrees
spring	Abundance Day^{-1} Trap^{-1}	0.28 ± 0.27	Landscape, Year, Site	0.20 ± 0.10	0.46 ± 0.32	0.15 ± 0.06	25	5000
	Richness	11.79 ± 8.60	Landscape, Year, Site	8.07 ± 3.33	0.20 ± 0.23	5.97 ± 2.20	25	5000
summer	Abundance Day^{-1} Trap^{-1}	0.25 ± 0.27	Landscape, Year, Site	0.21 ± 0.11	0.38 ± 0.24	0.16 ± 0.06	30	1000
	Richness	7.13 ± 7.24	Landscape, Year, Site	6.09 ± 2.76	0.28 ± 0.25	4.74 ± 1.76	15	5000

Figure 1: Map of study sites in the Finger Lakes region of New York, USA. Bees were sampled in spring and summer 2018- 2019 at 33 sites in seven habitats defined by Iverson et al (in review; mesic upland remnant forests, floodplain forests, forest edges, old fields, roadside ditches, mixed vegetable farms, and apple orchards).

Figure 2: Variable-importance scores of the top 21 variables from random forest models predicting wild-bee abundance and richness. Bees were sampled in 2018 and 2019 at 33 sites in the Finger Lakes region of New York, USA. We calculated landscape variables for area within 1km of our study sites. For the most important variables, symbols denote directionality of the relationship ('++' = moderate/highly positive, '+' = slightly positive, '-' = slightly negative, and '--' = moderate/highly negative). Variable abbreviations are as follows: 'CV floral area' = coefficient of variation of floral area, 'Plant composition, mmt intensity' = composition of plant community associated with a gradient in management intensity (Figure S1) .

Figure 3: Relationship between landscape and local predictors and wild-bee abundance and richness in the spring. For both abundance and richness models, we show the top four predictors (excluding year, shown in Figure 5), with x-axis truncated to 10-90% quantiles (n=29 sites). 'IP' indicates insect-pollinated plants. To enable comparing relative effects across seasons with varying mean abundance or richness (Table 1), we depict values on the y-axis as difference from the predicted mean.

Figure 4: Relationship between landscape and local predictors and wild-bee abundance and richness in the summer. For both abundance and richness models, we show the top four predictors (excluding year, shown in Figure 5), with x-axis truncated to 10-90% quantiles (n=29 sites). To enable comparing relative effects across seasons with varying mean abundance or richness (Table 1), we depict values on the y-axis as difference from the predicted mean.

Figure 5: Difference between 2018 and 2019 for abundance (top) and richness (bottom) of wild bees in spring and summer estimated using a random forest model. To enable comparing relative effects across seasons with varying mean abundance or richness (Table 1), we depict values on the y-axis as difference from the predicted mean.

Figure 6: Abundance of wild-bee genera by season (panel A) and year (panel B) at 33 sites in the Finger Lakes region of New York, USA.

Figure 7: Floral area over time available in seven habitats in the Finger Lakes region of New York, USA. Floral area values represent all flowering plants. Floral area of the labelled habitat is represented with a colored polygon, while all other habitats are indicated with the grey polygons.