

Subject: Note to file regarding rusty patched bumble bee data points

Date: 3.20.2025

The accuracy of the data points (received from iNaturalist.org) in the rusty patched bumble bee (RPBB) database file were checked for geo-accuracy after realizing there is a wide range in reported observation point data accuracies (e.g., meters to kilometers). Wide ranges in accuracy may be a result of the extent to which iNaturalist users were zoomed into maps when recording the location of their observations.

While these locations may be accurate, we want to err on the side of caution. The following steps were taken in March 2025 to deal with potentially inaccurate RPBB locations received¹ from iNaturalist.org.

Step 1 – The geo-accuracy of the RPBB data points in iNaturalist were examined for their geo-accuracy. All points greater than a 100m geo-accuracy were identified. RPBB data points with geo-accuracy of 100 m or less were kept in the geodatabase.

Step 2 – The remaining RPBB data points (those greater than 100m geo-accuracy) were further examined for any notes that would help verify the accuracy. If there are no such notes to verify the location or the description of the observation point does not match the provided coordinates, the RPBB points were removed from the database.

Conclusion: The series of steps described above resulted in the removal of inaccurate RPBB data points and therefore RPBB high potential zones (HPZs), which were inadvertently included in past years due to data inaccuracies that were discovered in 2025.

¹ Data requested from iNaturalist included data marked as private accuracy.