Bicolored striped-sweat bee
(Agapostemon virescens)

- **Field ID tips:** 0.5x size of honey bee. Females: green thorax and black-and-white abdomen is unique. Males: tricky, but no dark stripe on hind femur.

- **Favorite plant:** anything Asteraceae for pollen but especially purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), variety of flowers for nectar

- **Flight season:** first generation mid-May to mid-July, second generation late-August to frost

- **Nesting:** underground, communal nests. Mulched garden beds, sandy paths, patchy lawns are suitable nesting habitat.

- **Behavior:** Males cloud around flowers (typically asters) looking for mates. Females collect pollen in their hind legs, often land with their wings held out.

- **Lookalikes:** females are distinctive. Other *Agapostemon* females in eastern North America are entirely green.
Females collect pollen in specialized hairs on their legs. Males sip nectar from flowers while waiting for the chance to mate.
A. *virescens* can be found in backyards, gardens, and urban farms.
If you find *A. virescens*...

• Submit photos to iNaturalist.org!

• Take time to watch them and pay attention:
  • Do you observe males and female mating?
  • Do females prefer asters over other flowers in the garden?
  • Do you see any entering holes in the ground?