

## **Bloody-nosed Beetle.**

If you are out walking in the area of Lawford Heath in April keep your eyes open for this Warwickshire rarity.

You may find this large beetle crossing the road or footpath as it goes in search of food having emerged from hibernation.

It survives on Cleavers in Warwickshire but in the rest of the country its main foodplant is Hedge Bedstraw. Adults are also abundant in August/September

It would appear that bloody nose beetle favours a sandy substrate for hibernation as well as a sunny exposed aspect (presumably to help bring them out of hibernation and as an aid to digestion and metamorphosis).

Places where they may be found include Coalpit Lane, also along the minor road leading to Rookery Hall and Lawford Lodge Farm, and in the old railway cutting west of Cawston Grange Farm.

We would be pleased to know if you find them in other places in this area as well.

For the records we need a good description of where seen or a grid Ref. the date, and if you get a chance to take a photo we would be pleased to see it.

For more details of this species see Warwickshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

[http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/6E13119018BC4EEC80256E90004C41AC/\\$file/BloodyNosedBeetle.pdf](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/6E13119018BC4EEC80256E90004C41AC/$file/BloodyNosedBeetle.pdf)

A much more worrying beetle

## **UK trees at risk from Chinese beetle**



The UK Forestry Commission is appealing to the public to help it eradicate an alien invader. The Asian Longhorned Beetle is already causing immense damage in the United States where thousands of trees that line the city streets of New York and Chicago have had to be destroyed

It is feared a similar pestilence could now strike the UK with sightings of the beetle being reported in several locations and has been found in Kent area and spreading!

The insect originates from China. It is transported abroad in wooden packing cases. It is a spectacular-looking creature with long striped antennae. Watch out for this one - Female is 32.5mm long without antennae (1.5"). Each female is capable of laying between 30 and 70 eggs in a cycle.

These hatch in 10-15 days and the larvae tunnel under the bark and into the tree where they eventually pupate. Fully-formed adults then emerge to spread the infestation by boring a large hole in the wood. The UK Forestry Commission is now asking for similar help from the British public. There have been about 20 reported sightings of the beetle or evidence of its presence in Britain. Again, these have been in wooden packing cases from China but there have been, as yet, no cases of the insect attacking trees.

The Commission is so concerned about the threat, UK law has been amended to make it illegal for anyone to knowingly bring the creatures into the country. Anyone who finds the beetle should report it.

### **Ashlawn Update** 6-4-12

Its something of a shock to find us back with winter weather, but during the recent warm spell We had local sightings of Small White, Orange-tip, Holly Blue, and Specked Wood.  
A Garden Warbler was heard in the Cutting and a Stoat was seen near Onley Lane.



From The Big Butterfly Count April newsletter, Butterfly Conservation.

**The Right White?** The butterfly season has officially started! Keep your eyes peeled and see what you can spot enjoying the spring sunshine.

Spring is the perfect time to start getting to grips with the whites, as all four of the common species will be flying during April across the UK. But telling your Large, Small and Green-veined Whites apart, and coping with the orange-lacking females of the Orange-tip, is far from easy.

We've created a [guide to identifying white butterflies](#) so that you can start brushing up on your identification skills in preparation for this summer's Big Butterfly Count.