

An abundance of Red-tipped Clearwing Moths *Synanthedon formicaeformis* at Bransford Bridge.

Keith Falconer

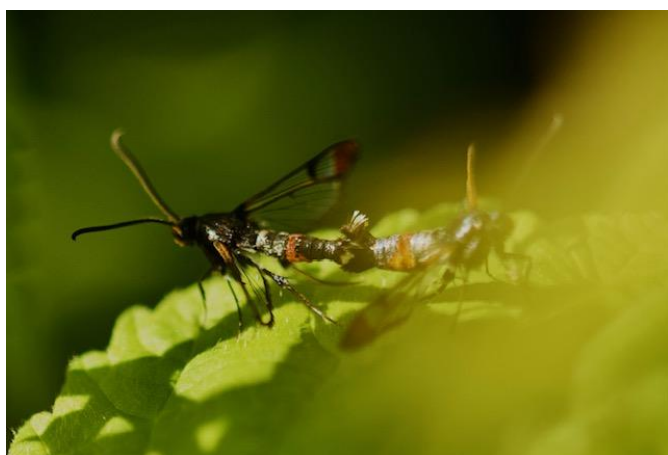
Red-tipped Clearwing Moths *Synanthedon formicaeformis* are considered to be an uncommon, local resident in the Midlands (Simpson 2020), and they have been recorded only occasionally in Worcestershire (e.g. McGee 2019). But since the introduction of pheromone lures this species has been found at new locations including Hartlebury Common (Hartlebury Common Local Group).

Red-tipped Clearwings inhabit damp areas where the larvae feed inside the stems of various species of Willow *Salix sp.* (UK Moths website), and the adult moths are occasionally seen resting on tree trunks in the early morning (Butterfly Conservation website).

In early June 2024 I was surprised to find this species to be abundant in a willow plantation at Bransford Bridge, where I found them easily without resorting to pheromone lures. The moths were normally in sunshine on broad leaves such as burdock, and one was seen to fly to a flower. Interestingly I returned a week later and found more of these moths including several mating pairs.



01. Red-tipped Clearwings were abundant at Bransford Bridge in June 2024. Keith Falconer.



02. Red-tipped Clearwings were still present later in June, including mating pairs. Keith Falconer.

References

- Simpson, T., Duncan, I. & Williams, M. 2020. *Moths of the West Midlands*. Pisces Publications, Berkshire.
- McGee, K. 2019. Records of Note 2019. *Worcestershire Record* 47:35-41
- Hartlebury Common Local Group website. Available at: <https://www.hartleburycommon.org.uk/sightings/>. [Accessed 07.12.24].
- UK Moths website. Available at: <https://ukmoths.org.uk/species/synanthedon-formicaeformis/> [Accessed 07.12.24].
- Butterfly Conservation website. Available at: <https://butterfly-conservation.org/moths/red-tipped-clearwing>. [Accessed 07.12.24].

Images

01. Red-tipped Clearwings were abundant at Bransford Bridge in June 2024. Keith Falconer.
02. Red-tipped Clearwings were still present later in June, including mating pairs. Keith Falconer.