

Stag Beetle (*Lucanus cervus*)

Each month, the **iWatchWildlife** Project choose a wildlife species that we'd like to know more about. We ask people to tell us when they spot that species, so we can then make it into a Species Record. Species records are important because the more we know - the better we can protect our local wildlife.

During **June**, we will be collecting records of **Stag Beetles**.



Male and Female Stag Beetles by Ross Bower



Male and Female Stag Beetles by Cowes Primary

How to spot a Stag Beetle:

- UK's largest and most spectacular beetle
- males are bigger (from 35mm – 75mm long) and are chestnut brown with large antlers - used for fighting other males
- females are smaller, darker brown with very small mandibles
- males: most likely seen flying around searching for a mate on warm evenings in May and June
- females: often seen on the ground looking for somewhere to lay their eggs

About Stag Beetles:

- are a protected species
- are harmless to humans
- do not damage living wood or timber
- emerge as adults in May-July to breed, after spending several years as larva underground
- they do not survive the winter
- on the Island: We have few records locally in recent years, these are mainly restricted to the North of the Island

Tell us about your observations and share your pictures [@iWatchWildlife](#) on Facebook or email iwatchwildlife@gmail.com