



Monthly walk see notice board

Garden bird watch

24th – 30th April 2016

Use the summer list – watch out for swallows

Please send lists after 1st May

Nature Notes

Jon Campbell reported a **ring ouzel** seen just south of Margaret's seat on 18th March. Subsequently Simon Emblem saw one on West Hill. Whilst Redwing and Fieldfare are winter visitors from the north, the ring ouzel is a summer visitor from the Atlas Mountains of north west Africa. I guess it is some five years since on a Monday walk, members of the group saw one feeding up under gorse on West Hill. Regrettably the birds are heading for the Pennine uplands where they breed and spend the summer.

Colin and Rita saw two swallows, whilst walking just east of Wyndings on 1st April. Sand Martins have been reported passing through Lodmoor earlier in the week. Whilst on the subject of Martins the BTO are organising a second year of the **house martin** breeding survey. You do not have to be a member to take part visit www.bto.org The on line form is on the left hand side of the home page where you can also follow progress on the tagged cuckoo recording scheme.

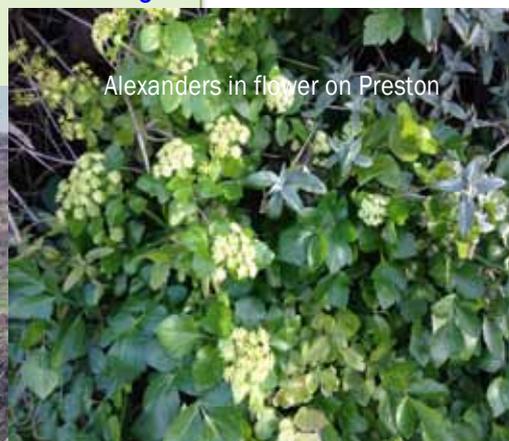
GARDEN BIRD WATCH March 2016

During our garden bird watch, week in March, I received reports from 16 gardens with 282 records, and a total of 38 species from the village. There was just one report of song thrush, two reports of yellowhammer, which are doing well on the hill. House sparrow seems to be in decline with quite low numbers from the 14 gardens reporting their presence. Everybody reported blackbird, which disappeared before Christmas but nobody reported a grey wagtail.

Butterflies are flying on warm sunny days with reports of comma, peacock (good numbers), small tortoiseshell, brimstone, small white and red admiral. Violet oil beetle *Meloe violaceus* has been seen at Wyndings and along Puddledock Lane. There were quite a lot of two spot ladybirds on the camellia by my front door on Saturday morning. I ran my moth trap overnight on 2-3rd April with four common macro-moths and two common micro-moths. I have only seen one dotted bee-fly *Bombylius discolor* in my garden this year. On the group walk on 31st March, we noted a slow-worm under a metal sheet off Whitehorse Lane.



Ring ouzel



Alexanders in flower on Preston



EDITOR: JOHN NEWBOULD

01305 837384

suttonpoyntz.org.uk/biodiversity

EMAIL: johna72newbould@yahoo.co.uk