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## November 2017 Garden Bird Watch this month 19<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> November

### Editorial:

After many years using a news format supplied with MS Word, I have decided that a new format is required to freshen things up. One sunny morning, this week, I headed up Wimslow Hill to generate a new image. With a little help from some Adobe software, I am trying this new banner.

### Hedges:

One of the outcomes of the image is to show the co-axial hedgerows, resulting from the 1800 Enclosure Acts.



I was asked to take a second picture for the Village Plan showing the boundaries eastwards towards Osmington. One of the interesting things is that the parish/town boundary from Preston to Osmington is virtually a straight line from Redcliff Point to the west of the White Horse to the hedgerow on the Ridgeway.

Another question I have been asked this week is "how does one assess and score the conservation value of a hedgerow?" One colleague suggested a meeting to talk about it. I outlined the issues after thinking about it and suspect that in due course I will need to put a discussion document together.

Please send bird returns after 26 November as soon as possible please.

### Garden Bird Watch.

We have had returns from 17 houses this month with a total of 34 species seen. It was a good to get one report of barn owl, which I suspect is under-recorded as we do not go out much in an evening. Tawny owl has been reported, which does not surprise me as Longworth traps are producing plenty of wood mice. Whilst nearly everybody reported seeing blackbird, there was only one report of song thrush. Just one report of blackcap and two of chiffchaff, both species, which have been migratory in the past, are increasingly staying around gardens in winter months. Long-tailed tit appear to be doing well with good numbers along Puddledock Lane in later afternoons. Six reports of grey wagtail, which is seen regularly along the River Jordan whilst out walking. Teasel, illustrated below, on Northdown Farm are a favourite of goldfinch.



Ivy in flower had a small number of hoverflies nectaring on the day, I took the photographs. Colin Marsh reported up to 12 red admiral butterflies on 11/10/17 on West Hill. He also reported around 25 yellowhammer on 26/10/17 in the same place.