



### Garden bird watch

23<sup>rd</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Please send lists after 30th October 2016

At the coffee morning on 4<sup>th</sup> November we will be showing some of the survey work Colin, Rita and John have been doing on the National Trust's Golden Cap estate during the summer

### Nature Notes

Colin and Rita have run the Longworth traps twice in the waterworks meadows finding wood mouse, common shrew and bank vole. In a garden off Puddledock Lane one evening he noted three wood mice. Despite a poor middle summer, these small animals are doing well. Within a few minutes of sending out the last *Nature News*, Ann Dye emailed to tell me that of all the houses they have lived in for the past 30 years, their present home is the first not to have received daily visits from grey squirrel. She was pleased to report that the walnut tree in the adjacent church was receiving daily visits collecting walnuts – a matter I confirmed the following morning. The roe deer population on Wimslow is going up. There are now five.

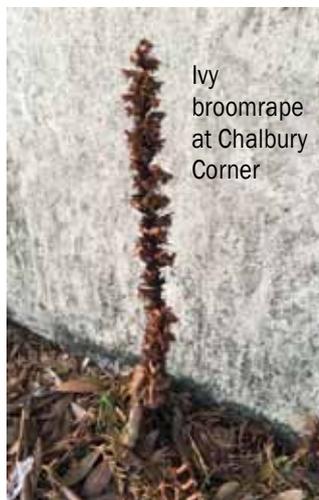
To the right are two interesting pictures. the left one is ivy broomrape (a plant parasitic on ivy) growing from a wall near Chalbury Corner near the shops. The right hand picture shows a branch of laid ash. I counted sixty annual rings before they were lost in the rotten wood in the branch measuring 460mm. Such branches are seen occasionally and I have always wondered their age.



Wood mouse before release

### GARDEN BIRD WATCH September 2016

I have received reports from 14 people this month. the bird of the month appears to have been green woodpecker wit Caroline seeing two together. They certainly visited my garden on two successive days. Grey wagtail has re-appeared. This bird has been in decline for some years, due to habitat loss, especially on moorlands fringes. Amazingly, two gardens did not have blackbirds. I do suspect that by mid-October there are some continental birds around. Colin and I saw around a dozen one morning near Morecombelake. Swallows and martins are on the way south. Dorothy reported a large flock of swallows at Wyndings as did Ros Evans during bird watch week. Peter Dye told me of two young tawny owls fighting in his garden off Sutton Road whilst six members reported hearing their nightly calls. Finches are not doing well. There were only four reports of chaffinch, three of greenfinch and three of goldfinch. The nuthatch is still present around Fox Cottage. Also interesting no records of starling as they will certainly be migrating inwards with flocks seen near Whitcombe.



Ivy broomrape at Chalbury Corner



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