

WWW

The first record for this winter season of a **Yellowhammer** in a village garden location came on the 25th with a female being seen, it was actually a first for this garden in eight years of observation there. Also on the same day 2 **Chiffchaffs** were recorded at Charford.

The Dipper that is holding a winter territory along the Avon adjacent to the sewage works was again seen to catch a **Bullhead** which, despite the fish being totally inert, it spent some time trashing presumably to “de-spine” before eating it. It then spent a few minutes preening before resuming its hunting activities, although its catches were then more typically small invertebrates.

On the 27th a **Yellow-browed Warbler** was found on a Hillside plot and eventually successfully photographed, an excellent record and congratulations to the observer for following up on a fleeting view of something he realised he didn't immediately recognise. It's been a very good year for this species on the coast but it's a lot more unusual to locate one inland although I guess many do make their way inland. Also on the 27th a moorland visit by an observer produced sightings of both **Hen Harrier** and **Merlin**.

On the 30th a different **Yellow-browed Warbler** was found at Hillside by the same observer as the first (subtle differences in the median covert wingbar identify this one as a second bird). It looks as though I'm going to have to go out of parish to catch up on this charismatic species in what has been a record breaking year for them, no time to lose, their passage will soon cease.

The village hall roost of **Pied Wagtails** is currently holding about 50 birds.

Bird records included are as submitted; this does not necessarily mean that they have been accepted.