

## WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

### Brief news for January 2016

There were netting sessions at the Fen on 13 different days in January. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area (Compartments 30 & 31) was used on all these days, with the Reedbed also receiving a brief visit on the 6<sup>th</sup>. The month's ringing total was 134; a further 226 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total for the month was 360. The totals and the breakdown are very similar to those of January 2015. Individual species totals (the first figure new birds, the second retraps) were:

|                          |        |               |        |
|--------------------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| Great spotted Woodpecker | 1, 1   | Great Tit     | 11, 32 |
| Wren                     | 0, 3   | Tree Creeper  | 0, 1   |
| Dunnock                  | 2, 5   | Jay           | 0, 1   |
| Robin                    | 0, 15  | Starling      | 1, 0   |
| Blackbird                | 8, 10  | House Sparrow | 14, 12 |
| Redwing                  | 4, 0   | Chaffinch     | 16, 11 |
| Chiffchaff               | 1, 0   | Greenfinch    | 16, 3  |
| Goldcrest                | 0, 2   | Goldfinch     | 6, 0   |
| Long-tailed Tit          | 2, 11  | Bullfinch     | 3, 1   |
| Coal Tit                 | 0, 2   | Reed Bunting  | 16, 17 |
| Blue Tit                 | 33, 99 |               |        |

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Old birds retrapped during the month were Great Tit TH47238 at 6 years 8 months, Robin X077999 at 6 years 5 months, Blue Tit X876406 at 5 years 8 months, Chaffinch L094112 at 5 years 4 months, Dunnock L504728 at 4 years 9 months and House Sparrow TK77864 at 4 years 4 months.

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Some of the more interesting bird sightings during the month of January 2016 were:

|                   |  |              |                                  |
|-------------------|--|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Whooper Swan      | 20 over on 17 <sup>th</sup> .                                  | Stonechat    | on 16 <sup>th</sup> .            |
| Shelduck          | 2 on 14 <sup>th</sup> .  | Chiffchaff   | one ringed on 16 <sup>th</sup> . |
| Pintail           | 2 on 25 <sup>th</sup> .  | Tree Sparrow | on 27 <sup>th</sup> .            |
| Smew              | 2 on 20 <sup>th</sup> .  |              |                                  |
| Buzzard           | on 15 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> .                     |              |                                  |
| Marsh Harrier     | maximum 5 in month.  |              |                                  |
| Hen Harrier       | maximum 6 or 7 in month.                                       |              |                                  |
| Merlin            | on 20 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> .                     |              |                                  |
| Peregrine         | several records; 2 birds on 8 <sup>th</sup> .                  |              |                                  |
| Bittern           | on 5 dates.  |              |                                  |
| Little Egret      | 3 on 18 <sup>th</sup> .  |              |                                  |
| Great White Heron | on 3 <sup>rd</sup> .   |              |                                  |
| Crane             | 3 on 23 <sup>rd</sup> .  |              |                                  |
| Short-eared Owl   | 2 on several dates, 7 reported on 11 <sup>th</sup> .           |              |                                  |
| Kingfisher        | 4 on 19 <sup>th</sup> .  |              |                                  |
| Starling          | estimates of 20000+ on 17 <sup>th</sup> and 24 <sup>th</sup> . |              |                                  |

An unusual mammal record was that of a Seal in Wicken Lode on January 1<sup>st</sup>.