

WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

Brief news for February 2016

The Group's indoor meeting, although most successful, seems to have induced a certain torpor, so although there were netting sessions at the Fen on 13 different days in February, the catching was poor. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area (Compartments 30 & 31) was used on 10 days, Gallops (Compartment 21) on 4, and the Reedbed (Compartments 51, 52, 53) on one. The month's ringing total was 140; a further 178 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total for the month was only 318. Individual species totals (the first figure new birds, the second retraps) were:

Great spotted Woodpecker	0, 1	Robin	0, 13
Goldcrest	2, 1	Blackbird	5, 10
Blue Tit	29, 59	House Sparrow	1, 3
Great Tit	4, 22	Chaffinch	12, 6
Coal Tit	0, 2	Greenfinch	21, 3
Long-tailed Tit	15, 21	Goldfinch	14, 1
Tree Creeper	2, 4	Siskin	4, 0
Pied Wagtail	3, 0	Lesser Redpoll	1, 2
Wren	4, 3	Bullfinch	8, 6
Dunnock	3, 9	Reed Bunting	12, 12

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Old birds retrapped during the month were Robin X077999 at 6 years 6 months, Chaffinch L504062 at 5 years 3 months, Long-tailed Tit DDA101 at 4 years 11 months, Blackbird LB03670 at 4 years 5 months, Blue Tit Y408872 and Great Tit Y408508 both at 3 years 5 months and House Sparrow TL11348 at 3 years 3 months.

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

Whooper Swan	25 on 19 th .
Pintail	on 10 th .
Hen Harrier	maximum 7 on 2 nd and 7 th .
Marsh Harrier	maximum 2 on 20 th .
Crane	2 or 3 reported on several dates in the month.
Bittern	on 16 th .
Short-eared Owl	on 14 th and 24 th .
Merlin	on 1 st and 9 th .
Starlings	"several thousand" to roost on 13 th .
Stonechat	2 on 13 th and 19 th .