

WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

Brief news for March 2016

There were netting sessions at the Fen on 12 different days in March. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area (Compartments 30 & 31) was used on 6 days, Gallops/Sedge Fen (Compartments 15 & 21) on 4 and the Reedbed (Compartments 51, 52 & 53) on 2. The month's ringing total was 141; a further 159 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total for the month was 300. Individual species totals (the first figure new birds, the second retraps) were:

Green Woodpecker	1, 0	Great Tit	9, 24
Great spotted Woodpecker	0, 1	Chiffchaff	5, 0
Wren	0, 3	Tree Creeper	2, 1
Dunnock	1, 12	House Sparrow	0, 1
Robin	5, 6	Greenfinch	23, 10
Blackbird	3, 3	Chaffinch	10, 3
Song Thrush	0, 1	Goldfinch	24, 2
Redwing	3, 1	Lesser Redpoll	28, 5
Goldcrest	2, 1	Bullfinch	5, 1
Long-tailed Tit	1, 17	Reed Bunting	6, 11
Blue Tit	13, 56		

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Old birds retrapped during the month were Chaffinch X078560 at 6 years 8 months, Cetti's Warbler L093219 and Robin X876549 both at 5 years 9 months (but the latter, sadly, dead), Blue Tit X876576 at 5 years 8 months, Great Tit L505752 and Blackbird LB03670 both at 4 years 7 months, and Long-tailed Tit DDA398 at 4 years 5 months.

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

Shelduck	4 on 13 th .
Pochard	20 on 13 th .
Kite	On 25 th .
Buzzard	Several records; 2 birds on 11 th .
Marsh Harrier	3 on 19 th .
Hen Harrier	4 on 15 th .
Peregrine	On 7 th and 26 th .
Bittern	On 3 rd and 15 th .
Little Egret	10 on 13 th .
Crane	Build-up in numbers in the month, to a maximum of 7 on 17 th !
Oystercatcher	2 on 13 th .
Redshank	First on 21 st .
Woodcock	2 on 26 th .
Barn Owl	3 on 10 th .
Short-eared Owl	3 on 10 th .
Coal Tit	On 10 th .
Stonechat	4 on 10 th , 3 on 20 th .
Chiffchaff	11 on 26 th .