

WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

Brief news for April 2016

There were netting sessions at the Fen on 11 different days in April, although some of these were small-scale and targeted at Willow Warblers. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area was used for netting on just 4 days, Gallops on 2 and the Reedbed on 5. The month's ringing total was 122; a further 117 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total for the month was 239. Individual species totals (the first figure new birds, the second retraps) were:

Stock Dove	2, 0	Reed Warbler	1, 0
Barn Owl	0, 2	Tree Creeper	1, 3
Blue Tit	4, 19	Wren	9, 11
Great Tit	0, 20	Blackbird	3, 7
Bearded Tit	1, 0	Song Thrush	1, 0
Cetti's Warbler	3, 2	Robin	3, 9
Long-tailed Tit	1, 5	Redstart	1, 0
Chiffchaff	20, 12	Dunnock	7, 5
Willow Warbler	9, 1	Chaffinch	1, 2
Blackcap	15, 2	Goldfinch	1, 0
Lesser Whitethroat	3, 0	Lesser Redpoll	10, 2
Whitethroat	1, 0	Bullfinch	2, 7
Grasshopper Warbler	5, 1	Reed Bunting	5, 4
Sedge Warbler	13, 2	House Sparrow	0, 1

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Old birds retrapped during the month were Long-tailed Tit BCR091 at 8 years 6 months (a WFG record and close to the British record), Blackbird XB92895 at 5y 10m, Chaffinch L094145 at 5y 7m, Great Tit L504802 at 4y 10m, Reed Bunting Y114255 at 4y 1m, Blue Tit Y408052 at 3y 10m, Robin Y408900 at 3y 7m and Bullfinch Y409137 at 3y 5m.

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

Shelduck	8 on 7 th and 21 st .
Garganey	4 on 19 th .
Pintail	On 21 st .
Kite	On 24 th .
Buzzard	4 on 3 rd , 17 th and 30 th .
Peregrine	On 5 th .
Hobby	First on 19 th .
Merlin	On 20 th .
Bittern	Two, or even 3, birds.
Little Egret	8-10 roosting on Evans Fen.
Crane	6 on 5 th .
Oystercatcher	2 on 5 th , 4 on 11 th .
Avocet	On 24 th .
Dunlin	On 24 th .
Curlew	On 7 th and 26 th .
Whimbrel	On 23 rd .
Spotted Redshank	On 3 rd .
Green Sandpiper	On 12 th .

Greenshank	On 24 th .
Little Gull	On 12 th .
Common Tern	First on 12 th .
Arctic Tern	3 on 15 th , 18 th and 25 th .
Sandwich Tern	On 3 rd .
Cuckoo	First on 17 th .
Short-eared Owl	3 on 12 th .
Swift	First on 23 rd .
House Martin	First on 16 th .
Swallow	First on 2 nd .
Coal Tit	On 1 st .
Grasshopper Warbler	First on 5 th
Sedge Warbler	First on 2 nd
Reed Warbler	First on 11 th
Blackcap	First on 1 st .
Whitethroat	First on 19 th .
Lesser Whitethroat	First on 17 th .
Willow Warbler	First on 5 th .
White Wagtail	2 on 24 th .
Yellow Wagtail	First on 13 th ; 8 on 17 th .
Ring Ousel	2 on 5 th .
Wheatear	First on 14 th , 4 on 18 th , 7 on 22 nd .
Stonechat	2 on 5 th and subsequently.
Whinchat	On 19 th , 3 on 26 th .
Redstart	A female ringed on 24 th .
Nightingale	first on 23 rd .

