

## WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

### News for December 2006

There were 18 ringing sessions at the Fen December, on 15 different days. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area was used for 11 of these sessions, Area B on 1 and the Reedbed on 6. The month's ringing total was 209, other birds retrapped numbered 313, so a total of 522 different birds were handled during the month. In the list below, the first figure is the number ringed, the second the number of different birds retrapped.

Kestrel	1, 0	Blue Tit	24, 103
Great spotted Woodpecker	3, 4	Great Tit	8, 89
Wren	2, 9	Tree Creeper	1, 2
Dunnock	1, 11	Jay	1, 0
Robin	0, 9	House Sparrow	2, 0
Blackbird	14, 8	Tree Sparrow	1, 0
Song Thrush	0, 2	Chaffinch	14, 9
Redwing	7, 0	Greenfinch	107, 47
Blackcap	2, 0	Goldfinch	6, 0
Goldcrest	1, 0	Bullfinch	3, 2
Long-tailed Tit	6, 11	Reed Bunting	5, 7

The final Ringing Total for 2006 was 3566 birds of 48 different species.

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Some elderly birds were retrapped during the month: a Dunnock at 4y 8m, a Robin at 4y 6m, a Long-tailed Tit at 3y 1m, a Blue Tit at 4y 4m, a Great Tit at 4y 4m and a Greenfinch at 3y 10m.

We also received full details of various Wicken-ringed birds recovered away from the Fen, and of a number of birds ringed elsewhere, and caught by us on the Fen: Reed Warblers went from Wicken to Nottinghamshire, Sussex and to Spain and a Swallow went to Sussex. Caught by us at Wicken were a Whitethroat from Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire, Reed Warblers from Norfolk, Hampshire and Sussex, and a Greenfinch from nearby Fordham.

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Observations of birds in December have shown up some interesting records:

Barnacle Goose	One on the 9 <sup>th</sup> .
Bittern	One on the 14 <sup>th</sup> .
Little Egret	2 on the 5 <sup>th</sup> .
Hen Harrier	2 on the 26 <sup>th</sup> .
Marsh Harrier	One on the 17 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> .
Peregrine	Singles on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 24 <sup>th</sup> .
Merlin	One on the 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> .
Black-tailed Godwit	One on the 23 <sup>rd</sup> .
Barn Owl	Singles on the 6 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> and 30 <sup>th</sup> .
Grey Wagtail	One on the 4 <sup>th</sup> .
Stonechat	3 on the 9 <sup>th</sup> .
Blackcap	Singles ringed on both the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 31 <sup>st</sup> .

