

## WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

### News for March 2007

There were 33 ringing sessions at the Fen in March, on 24 different days (on some days there were ringing parties simultaneously at different sites on the Fen). The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area/Milner White's Fen (comps 19, 30 & 31) was used for 17 of these sessions, Area B (comps 20, 21 & 23) on 6 and the Reedbed (comps 51, 52 & 53) on 10. The month's ringing total was 201, other birds retrapped numbered 248, so a total of 449 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.

Sparrowhawk	2, 0	Chiffchaff	9, 4
Snipe	3, 0	Goldcrest	1, 0
Woodcock	2, 0	Long-tailed Tit	7, 11
Collared Dove	1, 0	Blue Tit	14, 52
Kingfisher	1, 0	Great Tit	17, 61
Green Woodpecker	0, 1	Tree Creeper	2, 3
Great spotted Woodpecker	1, 1	Starling	1, 0
Meadow Pipit	7, 0	House Sparrow	1, 2
Wren	14, 18	Chaffinch	10, 12
Dunnock	6, 6	Greenfinch	26, 19
Robin	12, 13	Goldfinch	29, 4
Blackbird	7, 13	Bullfinch	6, 6
Song Thrush	2, 4	Reed Bunting	16, 17
Redwing	4, 1		

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Some elderly birds were retrapped during the month:

Long-tailed Tit, OM4185, ringed 22.8.2000, retrapped 25.3.2007, 6y 7m

Reed Bunting, P214091, ringed 11.12.2001, retrapped 30.3.2007, 5y 3m

Blue Tit, P093810, ringed 30.6.2002, retrapped 25.3.2007, 4y 9m

Chaffinch, P974084, ringed 8.10.2002, retrapped 22.3.2007, 4y 5m

Great Tit, P974286, ringed 31.3.2003, retrapped 22.3.2007, 4y 0m

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Some interesting bird sightings in March were:

Shelduck Up to 6 birds present.

Pintail Highest count in the month was 27.

Bittern Booming on at least 6 dates in the month.

Little Egret 2 on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Buzzard One on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Merlin Recorded on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

Peregrine One on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Oystercatcher At least 2 present.

Ruff Up to 4 recorded.

Jack Snipe At least 2 throughout the month.

Woodcock At least 3 throughout the month (and 2 ringed).

Curlew 4 over on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Swallow First on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Blackcap First on the 27<sup>th</sup>.