

WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

Brief news for May 2007

There were 16 ringing sessions at the Fen in May. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area/Milner White's Fen (comps 19, 30 & 31) was used for 8 of these sessions, Area B (comps 20, 21 & 23) on 2, the Reedbed (comps 51, 52 & 53) on 4 and Baker's/Burwell Fens on 2. There were also several visits, by Julia McKenzie, to the nestboxes, which have been very successful this year. The month's ringing total was 386; other birds retrapped numbered 170, so a total of 556 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	1, 0	Lesser Whitethroat	4, 1
Ringed Plover	3, 0	Whitethroat	3, 3
Lapwing	7, 0	Garden Warbler	11, 1
Cuckoo	1, 0	Blackcap	28, 12
Tawny Owl	2, 0	Chiffchaff	6, 12
Kingfisher	1, 0	Willow Warbler	6, 7
Green Woodpecker	1, 1	Long-tailed Tit	17, 12
Swallow	2, 0	Blue Tit	80, 8
Wren	9, 16	Great Tit	113, 15
Dunnock	4, 9	Jay	2, 1
Robin	24, 23	Starling	1, 0
Blackbird	14, 14	House Sparrow	1, 0
Song Thrush	5, 4	Chaffinch	9, 5
Cetti's Warbler	2, 1	Goldfinch	0, 1
Sedge Warbler	7, 1	Bullfinch	6, 19
Reed Warbler	10, 5	Reed Bunting	6, 0

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The oldest of several elderly retraps caught in the month have been Long-tailed Tit OM4185 at 6 years 9 months, Robin P093521 at 6y 5m, Dunnock P214527 at 5y 2m, Blue Tit P974044 at 4y 8m, Chaffinch P974084 at 4y 7m and Bullfinch P974396 at 4y 0m.

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Some interesting bird sightings in May were:

Shelduck	maximum 11 (on 25 th)	Grey Plover	one on 13 th
Ruddy Shelduck	one on 13 th , 17 th and 19 th	Dunlin	max 9 (11 th)
Wigeon	last on 5 th	Black-tailed Godwit	10 on 13 th
Garganey	up to 3 males	Bar-tailed Godwit	last on 5 th
Mandarin	on 3 rd and 12 th	Whimbrel	on 7 th and 18 th
Bittern	till 13 th	Greenshank	max 8 (2 nd)
Little Egret	max 13 (on 8 th)	Water Pipit	one till 7 th
Buzzard	on 13 th and 31 st	Nightingale	up to 4 reported
Osprey	on 4 th , 5 th and 13 th	Whinchat	on 22 nd
Hobby	max 11 (5 th)	Redwing	last on 6 th
Little ringed Plover	max 3		
Ringed Plover	max 26 (28 th)		

