

## WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

### Brief news for January 2008

There were ringing sessions at the Fen on 14 different days in January. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area (Compartments 30 & 31) was used on 9 days, the Reedbed (Compartments 51, 52 & 53) on 5, and Gallop's (Compartments 20, 21 and 23) on 2. The month's ringing total was 157; a further 303 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total for the month was 460. Individual species totals (the first figure new birds, the second retraps) were:

Moorhen	1, 0	Long-tailed Tit	10, 22
Green Woodpecker	1, 0	Blue Tit	18, 112
Great spotted Woodpcker	0, 1	Great Tit	19, 76
Wren	3, 5	Tree Creeper	0, 2
Dunnock	0, 11	House Sparrow	0, 1
Robin	1, 16	Chaffinch	13, 6
Blackbird	21, 15	Greenfinch	24, 5
Fieldfare	1, 0	Goldfinch	25, 2
Song Thrush	2, 1	Bullfinch	2, 8
Redwing	1, 0	Reed Bunting	14, 18
Goldcrest	1, 2		

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The oldest of a number of elderly retraps caught in the month were Blue Tit N489728 at 7 years 6 months (just one month short of the all-time Wicken Fen record), Reed Bunting P214091 at 6 years 1 month, Robin P974896 at 4 years 5 months, Great Tit R428861 at 3 years 11 months, Long-tailed Tit 4Z4703 at 3 years 10 months, Dunnock R428636 at 3 years 6 months and Bullfinch R490537 at 3 years 1 month.

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The more interesting bird sightings during the month were

Whooper Swan	2 on 9 <sup>th</sup> .	Merlin	One on several dates.
Pintail	3 on 26 <sup>th</sup> .	Lapwing	3000 on 5 <sup>th</sup> .
Shoveler	200+ on 28 <sup>th</sup> .	Black-tailed Godwit	4 on 2 <sup>nd</sup> .
Bittern	One on 1 <sup>st</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup> .	Barn Owl	2 on 1 <sup>st</sup> .
Little Egret	One from 20 <sup>th</sup> .	Short-eared Owl	4 on 16 <sup>th</sup> .
Hen Harrier	Up to 6 at the roost.	Little Owl	One on 28 <sup>th</sup> .
Marsh Harrier	All month (2 on 5 <sup>th</sup> )	Stonechat	3 on 5 <sup>th</sup> .
Buzzard	One on 5 <sup>th</sup> .	Cetti's Warbler	5+ on 30 <sup>th</sup> .
Goshawk	A male on 16 <sup>th</sup> .	Great Grey Shrike	Present all month
Peregrine	2 on 20 <sup>th</sup> .	Siskin	On 16 <sup>th</sup> .

