

WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

Brief news for February 2008

There were ringing sessions at the Fen on 20 different days in February. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area (Compartments 30 & 31) was used on 10 days, the Reedbed (Compartments 51, 52 & 53) on 4, Gallop's (Compartments 20, 21 and 23) on 7 and the Priory Farm area on one. The month's ringing total was 186; a further 347 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total for the month was 533. Individual species totals (the first figure new birds, the second retraps) were:

Sparrowhawk	1, 0	Long-tailed Tit	15, 34
Kestrel	1, 0	Blue Tit	14, 87
Moorhen	1, 0	Great Tit	16, 91
Green Woodpecker	1, 0	Tree Creeper	0, 2
Great spotted Woodpecker	2, 2	Chaffinch	28, 18
Wren	3, 4	Greenfinch	4, 2
Dunnock	9, 15	Goldfinch	25, 8
Robin	6, 20	Siskin	2, 0
Blackbird	13, 25	Lesser Redpoll	6, 4
Song Thrush	2, 2	Mealy Redpoll	1, 0
Redwing	3, 0	Bullfinch	4, 6
Cetti's Warbler	0, 1	Yellowhammer	3, 0
Goldcrest	1, 1	Reed Bunting	25, 23
Bearded Tit	0, 2		

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

The oldest of a number of elderly retraps caught in the month were Blue Tit N489728 at 7 years 7 months (equalling the all-time Wicken Feb longevity record for the species), Robin P214307 at 5 years 8 months, Reed Bunting P974281 at 4 years 11 months, Long-tailed Tit 4Z4079 at 4 years 8 months, Great Tit R428168 at 4 years 6 months, Dunnock R428897 at 3 years 10 months and Great spotted Woodpecker XB92320 at 3 years 0 months.

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Some of the more interesting bird sightings during the month were

Whooper Swan	One on 17 th .	Black-tailed Godwit	2 on 12 th .
Bittern	Booming on 8 th & 9 th	Green Sandpiper	One on 9 th .
Little Egret	One on 17 th .	Barn Owl	2 on 16 th .
Hen Harrier	Up to 5 at the roost.	Short-eared Owl	3 on 10 th .
Marsh Harrier	10 on 16 th .	Stonechat	2 on 10 th .
Buzzard	One on 10 th & 20 th .	Cetti's Warbler	6 on 8 th .
Goshawk	One on 19 th .	Bearded Tit	Party on 9 th .
Merlin	2 on 12 th .	Great grey Shrike	Present all month
Golden Plover	c3000 on 8 th .	Siskin	c25 on 2 nd .
Jack Snipe	One on 2 nd .	Corn Bunting	c20 on 17 th .

