

## WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

### Brief news for August 2008

There were netting sessions at the Fen on 16 different days in August. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area (Compartments 30 & 31) was used on 12 days and the Reedbed (Compartments 51, 52 & 53) on 9. The month's ringing total was 587; a further 106 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total for the month was 693. Individual species totals (the first figure new birds, the second retraps) were:

Sparrowhawk	1, 0	Lesser Whitethroat	10, 0
Woodpigeon	2, 0	Whitethroat	24, 0
Cuckoo	1, 0	Garden Warbler	7, 1
Green Woodpecker	1, 0	Blackcap	68, 2
Sand Martin	13, 0	Chiffchaff	50, 5
Swallow	49, 2	Willow Warbler	22, 1
Wren	30, 2	Long-tailed Tit	14, 9
Duncock	4, 5	Blue Tit	19, 11
Robin	33, 8	Great Tit	13, 11
Blackbird	15, 5	Tree Creeper	5, 1
Song Thrush	11, 2	Chaffinch	5, 3
Cetti's Warbler	5, 1	Greenfinch	12, 0
Grasshopper Warbler	2, 0	Goldfinch	1, 0
Sedge Warbler	23, 3	Bullfinch	18, 10
Reed Warbler	128, 24	Reed Bunting	1, 0

Two of the birds marked above as retraps (a Swallow and a Sedge Warbler) were actually "controls" (birds ringed elsewhere, and caught subsequently at the Fen) - we are awaiting details of these birds.

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The oldest birds retrapped during the month were a Chaffinch 5 years 6 months after ringing, a Bullfinch at 5 years 2 months and a Reed Warbler at 4 years 0 months.

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Some of the more interesting bird sightings during the month were

Little Egret	8 on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> .
Hobby	One or two throughout the month.
Black-tailed Godwit	On the 16 <sup>th</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> .
Whimbrel	On the 26 <sup>th</sup> .
Greenshank	3 on the 10 <sup>th</sup> .
Green Sandpiper	5 on the 26 <sup>th</sup> .
Great Skua	One over on the 17 <sup>th</sup> (only the second record for the Fen)
Grey Wagtail	One on the 1 <sup>st</sup>
Stonechat	One on the 15 <sup>th</sup> .
Spotted Flycatcher	2 on the 9 <sup>th</sup> .

