

WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

Brief news for January 2009

There were netting sessions at the Fen on 12 different days in January. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area (Compartments 30 & 31) was used on 8 days, the Reedbed (Compartments 51, 52 & 53) on 5 and the Priory Farm area on one. The month's ringing total was 237; a further 314 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total for the month was 551. Individual species totals (the first figure new birds, the second retraps) were:

Wood Pigeon	1, 1	Goldcrest	1, 2
Collared Dove	1, 0	Long-tailed Tit	6, 10
Green Woodpecker	1, 0	Blue Tit	16, 109
Great spotted Woodpecker	0, 3	Great Tit	17, 56
Wren	3, 13	Tree Creeper	0, 2
Dunnock	4, 8	House Sparrow	29, 0
Robin	9, 27	Tree Sparrow	10, 2
Stonechat	1, 0	Chaffinch	19, 17
Fieldfare	2, 0	Greenfinch	43, 10
Blackbird	16, 16	Goldfinch	35, 10
Song Thrush	0, 2	Bullfinch	2, 6
Redwing	6, 0	Yellowhammer	2, 0
Cetti's Warbler	0, 2	Reed Bunting	13, 18

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Old birds retrapped during the month were Blue Tit R428095 at 5 years 0 months, Great Tit R428861 at 4 years 11 months, Reed Bunting R428892 at 4 years 10 months, Wood Pigeon FS36978 at 4 years 5 months (a Wicken Fen age record), Robin R490405 at 4 years 4 months and Chaffinch T492442 at 3 years 1 month.

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Some of the more interesting bird sightings during the month were:

Whooper Swan	On 10 th .	Bearded Tit	2 on 2 nd and 14 th .
Pintail	2 on 23 rd .	Siskin	2 on 14 th .
Bittern	On 14 th .	Redpoll	On 3 rd and 24 th .
Little Egret	2 on 17 th and 20 th .		
Water Rail	5 on 20 th .		
Marsh Harrier	Increasing to 5 on 31 st .		
Hen Harrier	4 in the month.		
Buzzard	2 on 28 th .		
Peregrine	On 11 th and 19 th .		
Merlin	On six days in the month.		
Jack Snipe	2 on 8 th .		
Woodcock	On 6 th and 25 th .		
Curlew	On 24 th .		
Barn Owl	2 on several dates.		
Short-eared Owl	3 on 14 th , 24 th and 26 th .		
Stonechat	4 on 26 th .		
Mistle Thrush	2 on 20 th .		
Cetti's Warbler	4 on 14 th and 20 th .		

