

## WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

### Brief news for February 2009

There were netting sessions at the Fen on 12 different days in February. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area (Compartments 30 & 31) was used on 9 days, the Reedbed (Compartments 51, 52 & 53) on 4, the Priory Farm area (Compartment 104) on 2 and Gallops (Compartment 21) on 2. The month's ringing total was 186; a further 233 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total for the month was 419. Individual species totals (the first figure new birds, the second retraps) were:

Water Rail	1, 0	Great Tit	7, 43
Great spotted Woodpecker	0, 4	Tree Creeper	1, 2
Wren	4, 2	Jay	1, 1
Duncock	6, 9	Starling	4, 0
Robin	4, 23	House Sparrow	4, 9
Blackbird	15, 9	Tree Sparrow	9, 1
Fieldfare	5, 0	Chaffinch	27, 11
Song Thrush	7, 0	Greenfinch	8, 1
Redwing	4, 0	Goldfinch	33, 9
Goldcrest	1, 0	Bullfinch	2, 1
Long-tailed Tit	2, 16	Yellowhammer	5, 1
Blue Tit	13, 78	Reed Bunting	23, 13

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Old birds retrapped during the month were Great Tit NA62353 and Long-tailed Tit 4Z4079 both at 5 years 8 months, Robin P974896 at 5 years 6 months, Blue Tit R428073 at 5 years 2 months, Reed Bunting R428418 at 4 years 10 months, Great spotted Woodpecker RJ58668 at 3 years 3 months and Blackbird XB92533 at 3 years 0 months. .

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

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

Mute Swan	22 on Tubney on 11 <sup>th</sup> .
Ross' Goose	On 1 <sup>st</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Barnacle Goose	On 22 <sup>nd</sup> .
Pintail	9 on 19 <sup>th</sup>
Bittern	A bird grunting on 25 <sup>th</sup> .
Little Egret	On 22 <sup>nd</sup> .
Water Rail	5 on 14 <sup>th</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup> .
Marsh Harrier	Up to 4 in month.
Hen Harrier	4 in the month.
Buzzard	2 on 13 <sup>th</sup> .
Kite	On 16 <sup>th</sup> .
Merlin	On three days in the month.
Snipe	15 on 1 <sup>st</sup> .
Barn Owl	2 on 17 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> .
Short-eared Owl	On 19 <sup>th</sup> .
Kingfisher	On 7 <sup>th</sup> .
Stonechat	On 4 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup>
Cetti's Warbler	7 on 22 <sup>nd</sup> .

