

WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

Brief news for April 2009

There were netting sessions at the Fen on 10 different days in April. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area (Compartments 30 & 31) was used on 7 days and the Reedbed (Compartments 51, 52 & 53) on 3. The month's ringing total was 100; a further 122 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total for the month was 222. Individual species totals (the first figure new birds, the second retraps) were:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|-----------------|--------|
| Collared Dove | 1, 1 | Bearded Tit | 1, 0 |
| Great spotted Woodpecker | 1, 2 | Long-tailed Tit | 2, 8 |
| Wren | 3, 11 | Blue Tit | 0, 12 |
| Dunnock | 5, 8 | Great Tit | 2, 14 |
| Robin | 2, 5 | Tree Creeper | 1, 3 |
| Blackbird | 9, 9 | Jay | 0, 2 |
| Song Thrush | 5, 2 | House Sparrow | 0, 1 |
| Cetti's Warbler | 1, 2 | Chaffinch | 4, 7 |
| Grasshopper Warbler | 1, 0 | Brambling | 0, 1 |
| Sedge Warbler | 3, 2 | Greenfinch | 2, 0 |
| Whitethroat | 1, 0 | Goldfinch | 12, 6 |
| Garden Warbler | 1, 0 | Siskin | 1, 0 |
| Blackcap | 15, 3 | Lesser Redpoll | 2, 0 |
| Chiffchaff | 8, 6 | Bullfinch | 2, 2 |
| Willow Warbler | 2, 3 | Reed Bunting | 13, 12 |

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On April 18th a Sedge Warbler was caught at the Fen which was wearing a French ring (FRP5488215). We have yet to hear details of where and when it was ringed. Old birds retrapped during the month were Goldfinch R428898 and Dunnock R428897 both at 5 years 0 months, Great Tit TC01276 and Chaffinch R490815 both at 3 years 11 months, Blue Tit R969546 at 3 years 8 months and Great spotted Woodpecker RJ58668 at 3 years 5 months.

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

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|----------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Shelduck | 4 in the month. | Stonechat | A pair on 6 th and 17 th . |
| Garganey | 3 on 6 th . | Wheatear | First on 11 th . |
| Bittern | 2 booming. | Sedge Warbler | First on 1 st . |
| Marsh Harrier | 2 pairs present. | Reed Warbler | First on 10 th . |
| Hen Harrier | Last on 6 th . | Grasshopper Warbler | First on 11 th . |
| Kite | On 11 th and 30 th . | Whitethroat | First on 24 th . |
| Buzzard | Several around. | Lesser Whitethroat | First on 17 th . |
| Hobby | First on 22 nd . | Garden Warbler | First on 21 st . |
| Little ringed Plover | 4 on 21 st . | Blackcap | First on 6 th . |
| Jack Snipe | On 1 st . | Willow Warbler | First on 5 th . |
| Ruff | On 24 th . | Bearded Tit | On 3 rd . |
| Whimbrel | On 24 th . | Brambling | On 4 th . |
| Turtle Dove | First on 24 th . | Siskin | On 4 th . |
| Cuckoo | First on 13 th . | | |
| Swift | First on 25 th . | | |
| Yellow Wagtail | First on 14 th . | | |

