

WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

Brief news for December 2009

There were netting sessions at the Fen on 15 different days in December. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area (Compartments 30 & 31) was used on 7 days, Gallops (Compartment 21) on 3, the Reedbed (Compartments 51, 52 & 53) on 7 and the Priory Farm area (Compartment 104) on one. The month's ringing total was 159; a further 248 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total for the month was 407. Individual species totals (the first figure new birds, the second retraps) were:

Moorhen	1, 0	Chiffchaff	1, 0
Woodcock	1, 0	Bearded Tit	1, 0
Collared Dove	1, 0	Long-tailed Tit	3, 10
Great spotted Woodpecker	1, 3	Blue Tit	9, 66
Wren	14, 12	Great Tit	4, 61
Duncock	2, 10	Tree Creeper	0, 4
Robin	3, 17	House Sparrow	5, 16
Blackbird	23, 17	Chaffinch	16, 8
Fieldfare	4, 0	Greenfinch	2, 0
Song Thrush	14, 1	Goldfinch	12, 10
Redwing	22, 1	Bullfinch	3, 4
Cetti's Warbler	1, 5	Reed Bunting	16, 3

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Old birds retrapped during the month were Great Tit R428861 at 5 years 10 months, Blackbird XB92378 at 4 years 1 month, Robin T492161 at 4 years 1 month, Blue Tit T492027 at 3 years 11 months and Wren 766595 at 3 years 2 months.

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Some of the more interesting bird sightings during the month of December 2009 were:

Whooper Swan	13 over on 13 th ; 22 on 18 th .
Pintail	male on 6 th .
Bittern	2 on 30 th .
Little Egret	2 on 6 th .
Hen Harrier	3+ on 31 st .
Marsh Harrier	3 on both 15 th and 30 th .
Merlin	on 5 th and 6 th .
Woodcock	one ringed on 31 st .
Snipe	15 on 20 th .
Barn Owl	on several dates.
Kingfisher	on several dates.
Grey Wagtail	on 14 th .
Stonechat	3 on 13 th .
Blackcap	a female on 13 th .
Chiffchaff	one ringed on 5 th .
Bearded Tit	4 or more on 10 th , 13 th , 16 th and 21 st .
Redpoll	6+ on 6 th .

