

WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

Brief news for December 2010

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 10 days, Gallops (Compartment 21) on 4 and the Reedbed (Compartments 51, 52 & 53). The month's ringing total was 178; individual totals were:

Kestrel	1	Bearded Tit	1
Moorhen	1	Long-tailed Tit	15
Green Woodpecker	1	Blue Tit	13
Wren	4	Great Tit	9
Dunnock	1	House Sparrow	4
Robin	2	Chaffinch	5
Blackbird	24	Goldfinch	24
Fieldfare	16	Mealy Redpoll	2
Song Thrush	9	Lesser Redpoll	11
Redwing	28	Bullfinch	1
Goldcrest	3	Reed Bunting	3

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Old birds retrapped during the month were Great Tit P093972 at 8 years 4 months (a Wicken Fen record), Blue Tit R428630 at 6 years 5 months, Blackbird XB92347 at 5 years 4 months, Song Thrush RV93852 at 5 years 0 months, Robin T942802 at 4 years 9 months, Long-tailed Tit 2C8390 at 4 years 3 months, Chaffinch T940521 at 3 years 10 months, Goldfinch T941170 at 3 years 9 months, and Bullfinch T941083 at 3 years 7 months.

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

Pintail	2 males on the Mere on 30 th .
Bittern	First of the winter on 4 th ; 2 on 9 th .
Woodcock	2 on 22 nd .
Curlew	On 7 th .
Barn Owl	4 on 21 st .
Short-eared Owl	3 on 5 th .
Waxwing	A flock of 12-15 birds on 13 th to 19 th ; one still present on 30 th .
Stonechat	Pair on 5 th ; 3 on 21 st .
Bearded Tit	c10 on 10 th .
Coal Tit	A retrap on 15 th .
Redpoll	2 Mealies (see above) amongst the Lessers on 14 th .
Corn Bunting	A roost of 53 birds on 6 th .

