

## WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

### Brief news for March 2011

There were netting sessions at the Fen on 15 different days in March. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area (Compartments 30 & 31) was used on 6 days, Gallops/Sedge Fen (Compartments 15 & 21) on 5, and the Reedbed (Compartments 51, 52 and 53) on 7. The month's ringing total was 175; a further 233 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total for the month was 408. Individual species totals (the first figure new birds, the second retraps) were:

Kingfisher	0, 1	Coal Tit	1, 0
Great spotted Woodpecker	1, 4	Blue Tit	20, 54
Wren	5, 5	Great Tit	18, 42
Dunnock	5, 10	Tree Creeper	1, 8
Robin	5, 8	Jay	2, 0
Blackbird	7, 6	House Sparrow	1, 0
Song Thrush	3, 3	Chaffinch	31, 19
Redwing	4, 0	Greenfinch	4, 1
Cetti's Warbler	1, 3	Goldfinch	14, 5
Chiffchaff	15, 9	Lesser Redpoll	3, 3
Goldcrest	2, 0	Bullfinch	0, 4
Long-tailed Tit	7, 25	Reed Bunting	25, 23

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Old birds retrapped during the month were a Blue Tit at 6 years 3 months, a Great Tit at 5 years 8 months, a Blackbird at 5 years 7 months, a Bullfinch at 5 years 1 month, a Reed Bunting at 4 years 11 months, a Chiffchaff at 3 years 11 months, a Long-tailed Tit at 3 years 10 months, a Robin at 3 years 8 months, a Chaffinch a 3 years 4 months and a Cetti's Warbler at 3 years 10 months.

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Some of the more interesting bird sightings during the month of March 2011 were:

Brent Goose	On Tubney on 19 <sup>th</sup> .
Garganey	The first, a male, on 25 <sup>th</sup> .
Pintail	6 on 15 <sup>th</sup> .
Red-crested Pochard	A female on 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> .
Bittern	Booming (or grunting) on 15 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup> and 30 <sup>th</sup> .
Little Egret	3 on 4 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup> .
Harriers	Maximum, for both Marsh and Hen, 3 in month.
Buzzard	Several records, maximum 3 on 22 <sup>nd</sup> .
Red Kite	On 7 <sup>th</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup> .
Peregrine	On 26 <sup>th</sup> .
Merlin	On 13 <sup>th</sup> .
Short-eared Owl	On 13 <sup>th</sup> .
Swallow	First on 28 <sup>th</sup> .
Stonechat	On 2 <sup>nd</sup> .
Chiffchaff	First on 13 <sup>th</sup> .
Willow Tit	The first record for exactly 10 years, of one bird on 6 <sup>th</sup> .
Brambling	On 25 <sup>th</sup> .

