

## WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

### Brief news for April 2011

There were netting sessions at the Fen on 20 different days in April. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area (Compartments 30 & 31) was used on 12 days, Gallops/Sedge Fen (Compartments 15 & 21) on 6, and the Reedbed (Compartments 51, 52 and 53) on 8. In addition, attempts were made to catch birds on some "non-traditional" area of the Fen, as well as the wide-ranging ringing of nestlings. The month's ringing total was 228; a further 217 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total for the month was 445. Individual species totals (the first figure new birds, the second retraps) were:

Green Woodpecker	0, 1	Chiffchaff	13, 13
Great spotted Woodpecker	0, 3	Willow Warbler	10, 3
Wren	14, 11	Bearded Tit	0, 1
Dunnock	5, 9	Long-tailed Tit	0, 12
Robin	10, 14	Blue Tit	1, 11
Blackbird	9, 9	Great Tit	3, 34
Song Thrush	1, 4	Tree Creeper	0, 5
Cetti's Warbler	1, 3	Jay	1, 2
Grasshopper Warbler	3, 0	Chaffinch	10, 22
Sedge Warbler	30, 4	Greenfinch	2, 1
Reed Warbler	5, 3	Goldfinch	16, 6
Lesser Whitethroat	1, 0	Lesser Redpoll	2, 0
Whitethroat	9, 3	Bullfinch	12, 13
Garden Warbler	6, 4	Yellowhammer	3, 0
Blackcap	49, 11	Reed Bunting	12, 15

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Old birds retrapped during the month were Reed Warbler R969776 at 5 years 8 months, Song Thrush RV93852 at 5 years 4 months, Chaffinch E371896 at 4 years 10 months, Garden Warbler T941233 at 4 years 0 months, Chiffchaff 766697 at 4 years 0 months and Blue Tit T940878 at 3 years 10 months.

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

Shelduck	4 on 18 <sup>th</sup> .	Greenshank	3 on 19 <sup>th</sup> .
Garganey	Pair most of month.	Wood Sandpiper	4 on 25 <sup>th</sup> .
Bittern	Booming on several dates.	Arctic Tern	3 on 25 <sup>th</sup> .
Little Egret	Maximum 4 in month.	Turtle Dove	First on 13 <sup>th</sup> .
Kite	On 25 <sup>th</sup> .	Cuckoo	First on 8 <sup>th</sup> .
Marsh Harrier	Maximum 5 in month.	Swift	First on 22 <sup>nd</sup> .
Hen Harrier	Last on 12 <sup>th</sup> .	Yellow Wagtail	First on 8 <sup>th</sup> .
Buzzard	Maximum 3+ on 3 <sup>rd</sup> .	Blue-headed Wagtail	On 17 <sup>th</sup> .
Hobby	First on 11 <sup>th</sup> ; 8+ on 30 <sup>th</sup> .	Waxwing	c180 on 14 <sup>th</sup> !
Little ringed Plover	3 on 22 <sup>nd</sup> .	Wheatear	On 25 <sup>th</sup> .
Dunlin	2 on 22 <sup>nd</sup> .	Grasshopper Warbler	First on 6 <sup>th</sup> .
Ruff	3 on 25 <sup>th</sup> and later.	Sedge Warbler	First on 2 <sup>nd</sup> .
Black-tailed Godwit	10 on 10 <sup>th</sup> .	Reed Warbler	First on 9 <sup>th</sup> .
Bar-tailed Godwit	3 on 11 <sup>th</sup> .	Lesser Whitethroat	First on 16 <sup>th</sup> .
Curlew	On 8 <sup>th</sup> .	Whitethroat	First on 16 <sup>th</sup> .
Spotted Redshank	On 30 <sup>th</sup> .	Garden Warbler	First on 10 <sup>th</sup> .

