

## WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

### Brief news for May 2011

There was ringing activity at the Fen on 16 different days in May. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area (Compartments 30 & 31) was used for netting on 9 days, Gallops/Sedge Fen (Compartments 15 & 21) on 7 and the Reedbed (Compartments 51, 52 & 53) on 6. On several other days, nestling birds were ringed without the use of the nets (many of the Blue and Great Tits were nestlings ringed in the nestboxes).. The month's ringing total was 386, a further 149 birds were retrapped, so the overall total of birds handled in the month was 535. The first figure below is the ringing total, the second is the retraps. Individual species totals were:

Sparrowhawk	1, 0	Garden Warbler	7, 10
Woodcock	2, 0	Blackcap	34, 7
Barn Owl	2, 0	Chiffchaff	3, 13
Kingfisher	2, 0	Willow Warbler	7, 6
Green Woodpecker	1, 1	Bearded Tit	2, 0
Great spotted Woodpecker	0, 2	Long-tailed Tit	9, 6
Wren	8, 13	Blue Tit	125, 4
Dunnock	5, 5	Great Tit	61, 5
Robin	12, 5	Tree Creeper	0, 4
Blackbird	5, 14	Jay	0, 1
Song Thrush	3, 1	Jackdaw	1, 0
Cetti's Warbler	2, 3	House Sparrow	1, 0
Grasshopper Warbler	0, 1	Chaffinch	2, 4
Sedge Warbler	22, 9	Greenfinch	1, 1
Reed Warbler	42, 12	Goldfinch	1, 0
Lesser Whitethroat	3, 1	Bullfinch	2, 11
Whitethroat	17, 5	Reed Bunting	3, 5

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Old birds retrapped during the month were Chaffinch P214978 at 8 years 5 months, Blackbird XB92347 at 5 years 9 months, Whitethroat J593964 and Reed Warbler N590504 both at 4 years 10 months, Chiffchaff 766697 and Garden Warbler T941233 both at 4 years 1 month, Blackcap T941891 and Robin T941908 both at 3 years 10 months, and Long-tailed Tit BCR440 and Bullfinch V834545 both at 3 years 6 months. The Chaffinch and the Whitethroat both establish new Wicken Fen longevity records.

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

Garganey	2 males on 4 <sup>th</sup> .	Ruff	4 on 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> .
Bittern	Grunting on 4 <sup>th</sup> .	Whimbrel	On 2 <sup>nd</sup> .
Little Egret	11 on 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> .	Bar-tailed Godwit	59 through on 1 <sup>st</sup> .
Purple Heron	On 15 <sup>th</sup> .	Black-tailed Godwit	On 2 <sup>nd</sup> .
Osprey	Over Tubney on 31 <sup>st</sup> .	Spotted Redshank	On 1 <sup>st</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> .
Kite	On several dates.	Greenshank	7 on 2 <sup>nd</sup> .
Hobby	8 on 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> .	Wood Sandpiper	9 on 3 <sup>rd</sup> .
Crane	On 6 <sup>th</sup> .	Green Sandpiper	On 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> .
Little ringed Plover	4 on 3 <sup>rd</sup> .	Turnstone	2 on 1 <sup>st</sup> .
Ringed Plover	4 on 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	Arctic Tern	On 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> .
Grey Plover	On 1 <sup>st</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> .	White Wagtail	3 on 4 <sup>th</sup> .

