

## WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

### Brief news for December 2011

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 8 days, Gallops/Sedge Fen (Compartments 15 and 21) on 5, the Reedbed (Compartments 51, 52 & 53) on 5 and Tubney Fen on one. The month's ringing total was 168; a further 201 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total for the month was 369. Individual species totals were:

Sparrowhawk	3, 0	Goldcrest	0, 4
Great spotted Woodpecker	1, 1	Long-tailed Tit	1, 24
Pied Wagtail	10, 1	Blue Tit	17, 82
Wren	1, 1	Great Tit	2, 42
Dunnock	0, 4	Tree Creeper	0, 1
Robin	1, 10	Starling	1, 0
Blackbird	30, 9	House Sparrow	4, 2
Fieldfare	4, 0	Chaffinch	6, 6
Song Thrush	9, 3	Greenfinch	2, 0
Redwing	30, 0	Goldfinch	13, 4
Cetti's Warbler	0, 1	Bullfinch	10, 4
Blackcap	1, 0	Reed Bunting	22, 3

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Old birds retrapped during the month were Bullfinch R969328 at 6 years 5 months, Chaffinch E371895 at 5 years 6 months, Blue Tit J593985 at 5 years 5 months, Robin T941908 at 4 years 5 months, Long-tailed Tit BCR440 at 4 years 1 month and Goldfinch X077107 at 3 years 3 months

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

Pintail	4 males on 10 <sup>th</sup> .
Little Egret	On 10 <sup>th</sup> .
Marsh Harrier	Maximum 4 (possibly 6) on 27 <sup>th</sup> .
Hen Harrier	At least 8 birds (2 males, 6 ringtails) present.
Kestrel	4 on 12 <sup>th</sup> .
Woodcock	2 on 21 <sup>st</sup> .
Little Owl	2 on 1 <sup>st</sup> .
Short-eared Owl	Up to 10 throughout the month.
Waxwing	3 on 24 <sup>th</sup> .
Stonechat	2 on 27 <sup>th</sup> .
Mistle Thrush	5 on 21 <sup>st</sup>
Bearded Tit	At the Reedbed throughout the month.
Coal Tit	On 27 <sup>th</sup> . .

