

WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

Brief news for January 2012

There were netting sessions at the Fen on 14 different days in January. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area (Compartments 30 & 31) was used on 8 days, Gallops/A2 area (Compartments 15 and 21) on 3 and the Reedbed (Compartments 51, 52 & 53) on 4. The month's ringing total was 130; a further 239 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total for the month was 369. Individual species totals (the first figure new birds, the second retraps) were:

Pied Wagtail	8, 1	Blue Tit	17, 78
Wren	3, 9	Great Tit	9, 51
Dunnock	5, 8	Jay	0, 1
Robin	3, 19	House Sparrow	10, 8
Blackbird	5, 6	Chaffinch	15, 6
Fieldfare	2, 0	Greenfinch	2, 0
Song Thrush	0, 2	Goldfinch	12, 3
Redwing	1, 0	Lesser Redpoll	10, 1
Goldcrest	1, 4	Bullfinch	4, 5
Long-tailed Tit	9, 32	Reed Bunting	14, 5

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Old birds retrapped during the month were Great Tit R969325 at 6 years 6 months, Robin N590604 at 5 years 5 months, Long-tailed Tit BCR012 and Blue Tit T941757 both at 4 years 6 months, Wren BCR083 at 4 years 3 months, Dunnock V835379 at 3 years 6 months and Chaffinch V834345 at 3 years 3 months.

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Some of the more interesting bird sightings during the month of January 2012 were:

Pintail	4 males on 29 th .
Bittern	On 8 th and 10 th .
Little Egret	3 on 7 th ; singles on subsequent dates.
Water Rail	c6 on 6 th .
Hen Harrier	Maximum 6 (possibly 8) in month.
Marsh Harrier	Maximum 3 in month.
Buzzard	2 on 23 rd .
Peregrine	On 5 th .
Merlin	On 7 th and 8 th .
Woodcock	2 on 25 th .
Short-eared Owl	Maximum 6 on 7 th .
Long-eared Owl	A "possible" on 10 th .
Lesser spotted Woodpecker	On 11 th .
Stonechat	2 on 15 th .
Jackdaw	c350 on 3 rd .

