

## WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

### Brief news for March 2012

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 9 days, the Gallops/A1/A2 areas (Compartments 15, 21 and 24) on 8 and the Reedbed/Priory Farm areas (Compartments 51, 52, 53 and 104) on 6. There were also two (unsuccessful) visits to Guinea Hall (Compartments 108-112), to set spring traps. The month's ringing total was 285; a further 267 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total for the month was 552. Individual species totals (the first figure new birds, the second retraps) were:

Sparrowhawk	1, 0	Long-tailed Tit	3, 11
Woodpigeon	1, 0	Coal Tit	1, 0
Collared Dove	1, 0	Blue Tit	13, 76
Green Woodpecker	0, 1	Great Tit	13, 52
Great spotted Woodpecker	1, 6	Tree Creeper	3, 2
Pied Wagtail	9, 0	Jay	0, 1
Wren	5, 12	House Sparrow	4, 7
Dunnock	4, 8	Chaffinch	48, 15
Robin	2, 15	Greenfinch	37, 3
Blackbird	1, 5	Goldfinch	57, 9
Song Thrush	2, 1	Lesser Redpoll	1, 10
Cetti's Warbler	2, 2	Bullfinch	5, 5
Blackcap	1, 0	Yellowhammer	1, 1
Chiffchaff	17, 2	Reed Bunting	49, 23
Goldcrest	3, 0		

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Old birds retrapped during the month were Reed Bunting R428418 at 7 years 11 months, Blue Tit J593985 at 5 years 8 months, Blackbird CF10702 at 4 years 11 months, Chaffinch T941084 at 4 years 10 months, Long-tailed Tit BCR012 at 4 years 8 months, Wren BCR083 at 4 years 5 months, Bullfinch V834545 at 4 years 4 months, Tree Creeper BCR471 at 4 years 3 months, and Great Tit V834868 at 4 years 2 months.

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

White-fronted Goose	5 over on 23 <sup>rd</sup> .
Shelduck	2 on 22 <sup>nd</sup> .
Pintail	4 on 8 <sup>th</sup> .
Bittern	Regularly booming all month
Little Egret	2 on 22 <sup>nd</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup> .
Marsh Harrier	6 on 22 <sup>nd</sup> .
Hen Harrier	5 on 20 <sup>th</sup> .
Short-eared Owl	5 on 11 <sup>th</sup> .
Little Owl	On 11 <sup>th</sup> .
Pied Wagtail	100+ on 13 <sup>th</sup> .
Wheatear	First on 18 <sup>th</sup> .
Cetti's Warbler	6+ on 11 <sup>th</sup> .
Chiffchaff	First on 15 <sup>th</sup> .
Blackcap	First on 20 <sup>th</sup> .
Bearded Tit	On 13 <sup>th</sup> .

