

## WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

### Brief news for May 2012

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 6 days, Gallops/Sedge Fen (Compartments 15 & 21) on 7 and the Reedbed (Compartments 51, 52 & 53) on 4. 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 282, a further 199 birds were retrapped, so the overall total of birds handled in the month was 481. The first figure below is the ringing total, the second is the retraps. Individual species totals were:

Lapwing	1, 0	Blackcap	27, 16
Barn Owl	3, 0	Chiffchaff	8, 12
Kingfisher	6, 1	Willow Warbler	6, 5
Wren	6, 15	Long-tailed Tit	2, 3
Dunnock	2, 13	Blue Tit	44, 24
Robin	9, 10	Great Tit	48, 16
Blackbird	3, 3	Tree Creeper	0, 3
Song Thrush	2, 1	Jay	0, 1
Cetti's Warbler	1, 8	Jackdaw	2, 0
Grasshopper Warbler	1, 0	Chaffinch	3, 15
Sedge Warbler	16, 6	Greenfinch	9, 0
Reed Warbler	64, 16	Goldfinch	0, 1
Lesser Whitethroat	2, 0	Bullfinch	1, 13
Whitethroat	3, 2	Reed Bunting	7, 10
Garden Warbler	6, 5		

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Old birds retrapped during the month were Garden Warbler R490985 at 7 years 0 months, Reed Warbler R969689 at 6y 9m, Blue Tit J593985 at 5y 10m, Robin N950604 at 5y 9m, Bullfinch V834545 at 4y 6m, Tree Creeper BCR471 at 4y 5m, Chaffinch V834736 at 4y 3m, House Sparrow TH47865 at 3y 5m, Wren BCR140 at 3y 7m, Dunnock V835379 at 3y 10m, Willow Warbler BRD184 at 3y 1m and Great Tit TH47238 at 3y 0m.

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

Egyptian Goose	2 on 7 <sup>th</sup> .	Whimbrel	On 11 <sup>th</sup> .
Garganey	2 throughout month.	Greenshank	3 on 6 <sup>th</sup> .
Bittern	Up to 3 present	Wood Sandpiper	On 2 <sup>nd</sup> .
Little Egret	7 on 21 <sup>st</sup> .	Turtle Dove	First on 4 <sup>th</sup> .
Osprey	On 27 <sup>th</sup> .	Red-rumped Swallow	On 11 <sup>th</sup> .
Kite	Single on several dates.	Wheatear	On 17 <sup>th</sup> .
Honey Buzzard	On 18 <sup>th</sup> .	Nightingale	On 12 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> .
Buzzard	On 26 <sup>th</sup> and 31 <sup>st</sup> .	Bearded Tit	Bred.
Hobby	24+ on 25 <sup>th</sup> .		
Crane	2 on 6 <sup>th</sup> ; also singles on 16 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> .		
Oystercatcher	On 16 <sup>th</sup> .		
Avocet	2 on 5 <sup>th</sup> .		
Woodcock	5+ on 12 <sup>th</sup> .		
Curlew	On 29 <sup>th</sup> .		

