

## WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

### Brief news for March 2013

There were netting sessions at the Fen on 13 different days in March,. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area (Compartments 30 & 31) was used on 6 days, the Gallops/A1 areas (Compartments 15, 21 and 24) on 4 and the Reedbed (Compartments 51, 52, 53 and 104) on 5. The month's ringing total was 186; a further 222 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total for the month was 408. Individual species totals (the first figure new birds, the second retraps) were:

Collared Dove	1, 0	Blue Tit	14, 55
Great spotted Woodpecker	0, 3	Great Tit	8, 21
Pied Wagtail	20, 0	Tree Creeper	2, 1
Wren	0, 7	House Sparrow	1, 1
Duncock	3, 7	Chaffinch	20, 9
Robin	3, 14	Greenfinch	4, 1
Blackbird	8, 15	Goldfinch	10, 2
Song Thrush	1, 0	Lesser Redpoll	43, 35
Chiffchaff	2, 0	Siskin	1, 0
Goldcrest	0, 4	Bullfinch	4, 3
Long-tailed Tit	6, 17	Reed Bunting	34, 25
Coal Tit	1, 2		

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Old birds retrapped during the month were Reed Bunting R428418 at 8y 11m, Robin T941908 at 5y 9m, Bullfinch T941672 at 5y 8m, Great spotted Woodpecker CF10858 at 5y 6m, Long-tailed Tit BCR440 at 5y 5m, Chaffinch X077824 at 4y 0m, Blackbird XB92970 at 3y 8m, Blue Tit X875602 at 3y 5m and Greenfinch TK77635 at 3y 2m.

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Some of the more interesting bird sightings during the month of March 2013 were:

Whooper Swan	10 on 5 <sup>th</sup> , 7 on 14 <sup>th</sup> .
Brent Goose	On 14 <sup>th</sup> .
Shelduck	2 on 10 <sup>th</sup> .
Garganey	Male on 14 <sup>th</sup> .
Water Rail	Vociferous – maximum 6 on 27 <sup>th</sup> .
Bittern	Single regularly heard or seen; 2 on 31 <sup>st</sup> .
Great white Heron	One reported on Tubney on 19 <sup>th</sup> .
Little Egret	8 on 7 <sup>th</sup> ; 5 on 10 <sup>th</sup> .
Marsh Harrier	Maximum 8 on 22 <sup>nd</sup> .
Hen Harrier	Maximum 6 on 6 <sup>th</sup> .
Kite	On 14 <sup>th</sup> and 31 <sup>st</sup> .
Buzzard	On 10 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> .
Merlin	On 27 <sup>th</sup> .
Crane	Two on several dates; 3 on 28 <sup>th</sup> .
Short-eared Owl	Regular early in the month; 4 on 5 <sup>th</sup> .
Kingfisher	2 on 28 <sup>th</sup> .
Chiffchaff	Late arrival this year – first on 29 <sup>th</sup> .
Bearded Tit	Regular at the Reedbed – 7 reported on 28 <sup>th</sup> .
Coal Tit	On three dates.
Siskin	Occasionally reported; 3 on 31 <sup>st</sup> .
Corn Bunting	20 on 20 <sup>th</sup> .

