

WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

Brief news for May 2013

There was ringing activity at the Fen on 17 different days in May. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area (Compartments 30 & 31) was used for netting on 6 days, the Reedbed (Compartments 51, 52 & 53) on 9, Gallops/Sedge Fen (Compartments 15 & 21) and Guinea Hall each on one day. 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 200, a further 102 birds were retrapped, so the overall total of birds handled in the month was 302. The first figure below is the ringing total, the second is the retraps. Individual species totals were:

House Martin	2, 0	Blackcap	20, 4
Yellow Wagtail	7, 0	Chiffchaff	10, 10
Wren	6, 12	Willow Warbler	1, 1
Dunnock	5, 3	Bearded Tit	6, 0
Robin	3, 6	Long-tailed Tit	0, 5
Blackbird	8, 9	Blue Tit	20, 11
Song Thrush	3, 1	Great Tit	36, 11
Cetti's Warbler	3, 4	Tree Creeper	0, 2
Sedge Warbler	13, 1	Chaffinch	0, 2
Reed Warbler	41, 11	Bullfinch	1, 3
Lesser Whitethroat	1, 0	Yellowhammer	1, 0
Whitethroat	7, 2	Reed Bunting	3, 2
Garden Warbler	3, 2		

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Old birds retrapped during the month were Chaffinch T941267 at 6 years 0 months, Robin T941908 at 5 years 10 months, Blackbird XB92670 at 5 years 6 months, Great Tit V834348 at 4 years 7 months and Reed Warbler X078592 at 3 years 10 months.

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

Snow Goose	on 18 th and 20 th .	Black-tailed Godwit	9 on 13 th .
Shelduck	4 on 6 th .	Bar-tailed Godwit	3 on 8 th and 10 th .
Garganey	all month.	Curlew	on 4 th .
Bittern	all month.	Whimbrel	3 on 15 th and 16 th .
Spoonbill	5 on 15 th .	Greenshank	2 on 6 th and 18 th .
Crane	2 till 22 nd .	Wood Sandpiper	on 8 th .
Marsh Harrier	8 on 11 th .	Black Tern	3 on 7 th .
Osprey	on 16 th .	Cuckoo	5+ on 12 th .
Hobby	14 on 17 th .	Long-eared Owl	on 15 th .
Oystercatcher	3 on 11 th .	Short-eared Owl	on 13 th , 19 th and 25 th .
Avocet	3 on 6 th .	Nightingale	all month.
Black-winged Stilt	14 th to 18 th .	Stonechat	on 26 th .
Ringed Plover	28 on 16 th .	Wheatear	on several dates.
Dunlin	6 on 5 th .	Yellow Wagtail	about 80 roosting on 11 th .
Pectoral Sandpiper	3 on 14 th .	Spotted Flycatcher	on 27 th .
Curlew Sandpiper	on 15 th .	Coal Tit	on 7 th .
Ruff	on 25 th .		
Sanderling	on 17 th .		

