

WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

Brief news for October 2013

There was ringing activity at the Fen on 16 different days in October. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area (Compartments 30 & 31) was used for netting on 9 days, Gallops/Sedge Fen (Compartments 15 & 21) on 7 and the Reedbed (Compartments 51, 52 & 53) on 2. In addition, there were 6 visits to Burwell Fen in the month. October's ringing total was 514, and a further 190 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total of birds handled in the month was 704. The first figure below is the ringing total; the second is retraps. Individual species totals were:

Kingfisher	1, 0	Goldcrest	15, 2
Great spotted Woodpecker	3, 3	Firecrest	1, 0
Skylark	8, 0	Long-tailed Tit	24, 4
Meadow Pipit	121, 1	Blue Tit	46, 64
Pied Wagtail	4, 0	Great Tit	21, 43
Wren	22, 16	Tree Creeper	0, 4
Dunnock	7, 7	Tree Sparrow	1, 0
Robin	14, 6	House Sparrow	10, 3
Blackbird	8, 6	Chaffinch	16, 11
Song Thrush	9, 2	Brambling	1, 0
Redwing	14, 0	Greenfinch	9, 2
Cetti's Warbler	1, 0	Goldfinch	15, 2
Reed Warbler	5, 0	Bullfinch	7, 3
Blackcap	20, 0	Reed Bunting	109, 11
Chiffchaff	2, 0		

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Not many old birds were retrapped during the month; but BRD040 ringed on 8.4.2008 and retrapped on 26.10.2013, at 5 years 6 months, breaks the Wicken Fen Wren longevity record. Other oldish birds were: Blackbird XB72705 at 5y 10m, Long-tailed Tit BRD185 at 4y 6m and Blue Tit X876851 at 3y 2m.

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

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

Pintail	2 on 13 th .	Greenshank	on 1 st .
Little Egret	4 on 5 th .	Green Sandpiper	2 on 13 th , 14 th and 20 th .
Great white Heron	on 1 st , 2 nd and 6 th .	Swallow	last on 4 th .
Bittern	2 on 22 nd .	Stonechat	pair on 21 st .
Osprey	on 6 th .	Mistle Thrush	on 3 rd .
Honey Buzzard	at Tubney on 17 th .	Reed Warbler	last on 19 th .
Hen Harrier	5 on 21 st .	Chiffchaff	last (so far) on 15 th .
Marsh Harrier	5+ on 20 th .	Firecrest	ringed on 30 th .
Buzzard	4 on 24 th .	Brambling	ringed on 19 th .
Peregrine	on 6 th and 12 th .	Lesser Redpoll	heard on 30 th .
Merlin	on 2 nd and 28 th .		
Jack Snipe	on 1 st and 14 th .		
Black-tailed Godwit	2 on both 5 th and 20 th .		
Bar-tailed Godwit	on 1 st and 2 nd .		

