

WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

Brief news for December 2013

There were netting sessions at the Fen on 16 different days in December. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area (Compartments 30 & 31) was used on 9 days, Gallops/Sedge Fen (Compartments 15 and 21) on 4, the Reedbed (Compartments 51, 52 & 53) on 5 and Tubney Fen on one. The month's ringing total was 185; a further 257 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total for the month was 442. Individual species totals were:

Sparrowhawk	1, 0	Bearded Tit	1, 1
Water Rail	1, 0	Long-tailed Tit	2, 31
Great spotted Woodpecker	1, 5	Blue Tit	18, 87
Pied Wagtail	15, 0	Great Tit	3, 52
Wren	1, 11	Tree Creeper	0, 2
Dunnock	0, 13	Starling	1, 0
Robin	6, 17	House Sparrow	3, 1
Blackbird	28, 7	Chaffinch	9, 5
Fieldfare	5, 0	Greenfinch	6, 0
Song Thrush	6, 1	Goldfinch	47, 4
Redwing	15, 0	Lesser Redpoll	1, 1
Cetti's Warbler	0, 1	Bullfinch	4, 7
Goldcrest	1, 4	Reed Bunting	8, 7

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Old birds retrapped during the month were Long-tailed Tit 766906 at 6 years 7 months, Bullfinch V834189 at 6 years 4 months, Reed Bunting X077350 at 5 years 0 months, Blackbird CF10800 at 4 years 7 months and Robin X077999 at 4 years 4 months. Greenfinch TE30625 was found (but sadly dying), at Bottisham exactly 8 years after it was ringed at Wicken Fen, so a very old bird.

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

Pintail	2 on 4 th .
Cormorant	45 on 17 th .
Marsh Harrier	Maximum 5 in month.
Hen Harrier	Maximum 4 in month.
Buzzard	On 16 th and 17 th .
Peregrine	On 18 th .
Water Rail	Several very evident.
Crane	2 evident throughout the first fortnight of month.
Black-tailed Godwit	c125 on 29 th .
Woodcock	On 11 th .
Green Sandpiper	On 7 th .
Short-eared Owl	On 29 th .
Arctic Skua	One over on 4 th .
Stonechat	Two on several dates.
Chiffchaff	On 17 th .
Starling	Large flock (estimates 2000-5000) roosting at Tubney.
Tree Sparrow	On 10 th .

