

WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

Brief news for February 2014

There were netting sessions at the Fen on 15 different days in February. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area (Compartments 30 & 31) was used on 10 days, Gallops (Compartment 21) on 6, and both the Reedbed (Compartments 51, 52, 53) and the Brickpits (compartment 24) on one each. The month's ringing total was 182; a further 179 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total for the month was 361. Individual species totals (the first figure new birds, the second retraps) were:

Sparrowhawk	1, 0	Long-tailed Tit	6, 20
Woodpigeon	1, 0	Blue Tit	19, 56
Kingfisher	0, 1	Great Tit	8, 33
Great spotted Woodpecker	0, 3	Tree Creeper	0, 3
Pied Wagtail	4, 0	Jay	1, 0
Wren	2, 4	House Sparrow	1, 1
Duncock	4, 9	Chaffinch	9, 0
Robin	5, 11	Greenfinch	14, 1
Blackbird	6, 7	Goldfinch	33, 4
Song Thrush	2, 0	Lesser Redpoll	41, 2
Redwing	1, 0	Bullfinch	3, 5
Cetti's Warbler	1, 0	Reed Bunting	20, 19

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Old birds retrapped during the month were Reed Bunting X077826 at 4 years 11 months; Long-tailed Tit BRD185 at 4 years 10 months; Robin X078332 at 4 years 8 months and Blackbird LB03523 at 4 years 3 months.

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Some of the more interesting bird sightings during the month of February 2014 were:

Whooper Swan	11 on 22 nd , 13 on 27 th .	Golden Plover	383 on 25 th .
Greylag	181 on 16 th , 170 on 25 th .	Lapwing	415 on 25 th .
Whitefront	2 on 1 st .	Water Rail	8 on 25 th .
Ross' Goose	on several dates	Short-eared Owl	4 on 16 th and 22 nd .
Wigeon	c2900 on 16 th .	Barn Owl	2 on several dates.
Teal	c600 on 16 th .	Little Owl	on 27 th .
Gadwall	160 on 16 th , 145 on 25 th .	Stonecat	2 regularly
Pintail	6 on 25 th .	Cetti's Warbler	5 on 25 th .
Mallard	88 on 25 th .	Bearded Tit	several on 10 th .
Shoveler	80 on 16 th .	Brambling	on 16 th .
Pochard	5 on 25 th .	Lesser Redpoll	influx from 17 th .
Tufted Duck	15 on 16 th .	Rook/Jackdaw	2000-3000 on 4 th .
Coot	73 on 25 th .		
Bittern	on 26 th .		
Little Egret	6 on 4 th .		
Marsh Harrier	steadily 8+ reported, with maximum "count" 10-12 on 16 th .		
Hen Harrier	maximum 6 on 24 th .		
Buzzard	on 4 th , 13 th , 16 th and 18 th .		
Peregrine	on 23 rd .		
Merlin	on 2 nd , 22 nd , 23 rd , 26 th and 27 th .		
Crane	2 on both 16 th and 19 th .		

