

WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

Brief news for February 2015

There were netting sessions at the Fen on 16 different days in February. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area (Compartments 30 & 31) was used on 12 days, Gallops (Compartment 21) on 5, and the Reedbed (Compartments 51, 52, 53) on one. The month's ringing total was 268; a further 346 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total for the month was 614. Individual species totals (the first figure new birds, the second retraps) were:

Sparrowhawk	1, 0	Redwing	6, 0
Kestrel	1, 0	Robin	11, 20
Kingfisher	1, 0	Dunnock	1, 12
Great spotted Woodpecker	1, 3	House Sparrow	5, 7
Goldcrest	1, 5	Pied Wagtail	10, 0
Blue Tit	49, 127	Chaffinch	18, 8
Great Tit	19, 76	Greenfinch	32, 2
Long-tailed Tit	3, 22	Goldfinch	33, 5
Tree Creeper	1, 2	Linnet	2, 0
Wren	1, 4	Lesser Redpoll	2, 4
Starling	1, 0	Bullfinch	3, 1
Blackbird	13, 11	Reed Bunting	53, 34
Song Thrush	0, 3		

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Old birds retrapped during the month were Chaffinch V834220 at 6 years 8 months, Blackbird XB92719 at 6 years 7 months, Great Tit TH47238 at 5 years 9 months, Robin X077999 at 5 years 6 months, Blue Tit L504190 at 4 years 2 months and Dunnock L504834 at 3 years 8 months.

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Some of the more interesting bird sightings during the month of February 2015 were:

Whooper Swan	20 on 8 th , 27 on 24 th .	Curlew	On 13 th .
Mute Swan	56 on 11 th .	Green Sandpiper	On 18 th .
Greylag	312 on 11 th .	Short-eared Owl	Maximum 4 on 8 th .
Shelduck	9 on 11 th .	Barn Owl	Maximum 5 on 27 th .
Wigeon	c1500 on 8 th .	Little Owl	On 15 th & 27 th .
Pintail	On 11 th & 15 th .	Starling	c7000 on 8 th .
Shoveler	c500 on 8 th .	Corn Bunting	c10 on 3 rd .
Bittern	On 15 th .	Brambling	On 11 th .
Heron	Nesting activity on 24 th .		
Little Egret	3 on 7 th .		
Crane	2 over on 9 th .		
Marsh Harrier	Maximum 6 on 26 th .		
Hen Harrier	Maxima 3 males and 7 ringtails.		
Buzzard	On 15 th .		
Merlin	On 15 th , 22 nd & 27 th .		
Lapwing	1115 on 11 th .		

