

## WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

### Brief news for January 2018

There were netting sessions at the Fen on only 6 different days in January - a reduction on recent years. But January netting is often unrewarding, so less frequent visits inevitable. The St. Edmund's Fen/Education area was used on 3 days, the Reedbed on 2 and Gallops 3 (this was where the best catching was). The month's ringing total was 86 (slightly more than 2017!); a further 162 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total for the month was 248. Individual species totals (the first figure new birds, the second retraps) were:

Woodpigeon	1, 0	Robin	2, 10
Great spotted Woodpecker	0, 1	Dunnock	2, 4
Goldcrest	2, 3	Tree Creeper	0, 1
Blue Tit	13, 56	House Sparrow	4, 6
Great Tit	5, 43	Chaffinch	4, 1
Jay	0, 1	Goldfinch	3, 0
Cetti's Warbler	1, 3	Lesser Redpoll	22, 3
Long-tailed Tit	1, 9	Bullfinch	1, 2
Chiffchaff	0, 2	Yellowhammer	4, 0
Wren	6, 7	Reed Bunting	12, 4
Blackbird	3, 6		

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Old birds retrapped during the month were Jay DA27618 at 7y 9m, Great spotted woodpecker LC10707 at 6y 2m (a Wicken record), Reed Bunting Y409413 at 4y 11m, Blue Tit D681440 and Long-tailed Tit EAN626 both at 3y 4m.

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Some of the more interesting bird sightings (B-Burwell Fen; W-Wicken Fen) during the month of January 2018 were:

Whooper Swan	16 on 6 <sup>th</sup> .
Pintail	2 B on 1 <sup>st</sup> .
Hen Harrier	2 on 1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 on 20 <sup>th</sup> .
Marsh Harrier	5 on 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> .
Rough-legged Buzzard	B on 14 <sup>th</sup> .
Crane	2 B on 30 <sup>th</sup> .
Bittern	W on 6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> .
Little Egret	2 on 1 <sup>st</sup> .
Water Rail	in evidence (noisy)
Woodcock	on 7 <sup>th</sup> .
Short-eared Owl	B on 1 <sup>st</sup> .
Merlin	B on 1 <sup>st</sup> .
Firecrest	W on 5 <sup>th</sup> .
Mistle Thrush	on 1 <sup>st</sup> .

(This "observations section" is incomplete, due to Secretarial incompetence throughout the month)