

WICKEN FEN (BIRD RINGING) GROUP

Brief news for February 2018

There were netting sessions at the Fen on only 7 different days in February – the St. Edmund's Fen/Education area and Gallops were each used on 3 days, while the Reedbed, very bleak at this time of year, on just one day. The month's ringing total was 85 (just one fewer than January 2018); a further 121 different birds were retrapped, so the overall total for the month was 206. Individual species totals (the first figure new birds, the second retraps) were:

Great spotted Woodpecker	0, 1	Robin	4, 6
Jay	0, 1	Dunnock	1, 3
Goldcrest	0, 1	House Sparrow	3, 3
Blue Tit	9, 29	Chaffinch	4, 1
Great Tit	20, 36	Goldfinch	11, 2
Long-tailed Tit	0, 15	Bullfinch	2, 0
Tree Creeper	0, 1	Lesser Redpoll	16, 16
Wren	2, 1	Reed Bunting	6, 1
Blackbird	7, 2		
Song Thrush	0, 2		

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Old birds retrapped during the month were Great Tit L505752 at 6y 6m (this was its 23rd capture); Long-tailed Tit DDA398 at 6y 4m (25 captures); Robin Y856503 at 4y 7m (24 captures); Long-tailed Tit DDA693 at 4y 5m; Long-tailed Tit DDA491 at 4y 4m (31 captures); Song Thrush RF97022 at 4y 0m and Lesser Redpoll D680071 at 3y 11m.

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

Whooper Swan	on 8 th .
Pintail	3 on 11 th and on 22 nd .
Goosander	(B) on 5 th .
Hen Harrier	maximum 5
Marsh Harrier	maximum 5
Kite	on 2 nd and 15 th .
Buzzard	3 on 14 th and on 18 th .
Crane	2 on 1 st and 2 nd ; one on 18 th .
Ruff	8 on 10 th .
Woodcock	on 3 rd and 8 th .
Merlin	on 7 th and 11 th .
Peregrine	on 7 th , 11 th and 21 st .
Chiffchaff	on 12 th .
Stonechat	on 7 th and 18 th (a pair).
Siskin	on 1 st .