

Friday 01/06/07 Woolston Eyes 1000-1320Sunny and Warm!

The crew, although quite small due to holiday absences, was added to by a member of the Tuesday Team who soon absorbed into the gathering and we soon pushed off towards the Weir pausing to note a family party of **Mute Swans**, which battled against the flow of the Mersey as it pushed onto the sea!

A pause atop the bank of No2 bed gave us views into No3 bed (our destination for the visit) whilst we were treated to the fluty song of a **Blackcap** which contrasted with the equally enthusiastic but scratchier song of a **Whitethroat** that bobbed about No2 bed.

Our steady progress towards the Ship Canal allowed views into the banded off section of the river which gave **Coot**, **Cormorant**, **Gadwall** and **Tufted Duck**.

The bridge was safely negotiated onto No3 bed and soon we were peering from the viewing platform that gives views south - North across No3 bed. From here we gained superb views of a pair of **Black Necked Grebes**, which were constantly diving for food for their demanding brood of 2 chicks. Other birds noted were **Shoveler**, **Long Tailed Tit**, **Reed Bunting** and **Reed Warblers**.

We moved on towards the centre hide pausing in the Sybil Hogg Hide to check out a nesting **Lapwing** which obligingly gave us views of its nest which contained at least 2 camouflaged eggs.

The centre hide held our attention for a while whilst we took in more views of **Black Necked Grebes**. We also added **Great Crested Grebe** and **Wigeon** to our list.

A move to the next hide was briefly halted whilst we took in both the sight and sound of a **Sedge Warbler**, which proclaimed its territory in the nearby undergrowth.

Views from the higher vantage point of Linley Hide gave us **Ruddy Duck** and at the feeding station **Bullfinch**. Then it was time to complete our circumnavigation of No3 bed and set our compasses on a clear path home out of the now glorious June sunshine that had blessed our jaunt to Woolston. Dave