

Tuesday 05/06/07 1000-1330 Woolston EyesSunny and Hot but with a refreshing Breeze (at times!)

A pre-trip wasn't called for on this occasion as I had visited the reserve a few days earlier therefore once our meet-up was complete we all set off with the same clean slate and it was upto our collective sharp eyes (and ears) to add each and every bird to our day list.

The weir was our first 'pause point' in order to pick up **Great Crested Grebe**, **Pochard** and some already eclipsing male **Mallards** causing us to reflect on how swiftly the seasons move on in the bird world (and philosophically in our own world!).

Then after taking in yet again the panoramic views from No2 bed bank we were soon delving into the world of bird song delicately picking out the differences in the scratchy **Whitethroat**, the melodious **Blackcap** and the more subdued but extended utterances of **Garden Warbler**.

Then due to a special request/challenge we found ourselves trotting east along No2 bed ship canal track to pick out an obliging (in sound at least) **Lesser Whitethroat**. Then a jaunt onto No1 bed gave **Sand Martin**, which were nesting, in the sandy banks of the canal before we turned west to regain our original objective of No3 bed.

This saunter gave brief snatches of song from a **Cetti's Warbler** and added two raptors (**Kestrel and Buzzard**) to our mutual list. We even managed to gain more utterances from the now skulking **Sylvia curruca**.

No3 bed was slowly reached after we had taken in a few shade rests along the track, as the sun was really making itself felt on this glorious June day.

A semi-promise I had made about possibly not having to wander fully round the bed was fortunately kept when our first glimpse from the elevated hide gave **Black Necked Grebe** with the added bonus of it having a young bird at it's side. This was indeed a two-fold pleasure as we were able to revel in good views of this attractive grebe without a slog around anymore than need be in the now draining heat.

Then we all slowly turned back in the direction of Weir Lane satisfied with our Woolston Wander without the Wet! Dave