

Tuesday 25/01/11 0945-1320 Woolston Eyes

*Grey Wet and Cool with a few bright periods.*

Our gathering included a couple of waifs and strays from the Friday class but these were soon absorbed into the affableness of the Team and they soon settled into our easygoing ways although there was a little formality to begin with when the *Queen of Quizzes* presented a prize to the winners of her ANNUAL Christmas Quiz!

Now it is said that *into each life a little rain must fall* and it certainly came true for Team Soggy Tuesday on this fieldtrip but as a consequence of that, to paraphrase another saying, the *water flowed easily off the backs* of the Tufted Ducks and Goldeneye that were awaiting our arrival at the weir!

Thus our day of wet and wintry birdwatching had begun and soon we were peering into the basin area noting Pochard, Moorhen and Black Headed Gulls (next time we visit Woolston in the summer we hope to see the place inundated with these latter birds for the site has long since held a breeding colony of these raucous sounding Gulls).

Cormorant, Gadwall and Teal lined the way of our route to No3 bed and just before the Copse area most of us had added Goldcrest to our list for there were two of these diminutive birds which have so far survived all that this hard winter has had to offer. Let's hope they make it into and out of a successful breeding season which judging by the activities of a number of birds seems to be almost upon us!

The bridge was soon crossed and we were once more in the secluded world of No3 bed which is often devoid of visitor's in spite of the thousand strong membership (who in truth usually only show up to see the Black Necked Grebes in summer). The shelter of the Morgan Hide gave a welcome respite from the tiresome rain that had inveigled its way into the company of our stoic team.

Here we settled into watching the feeding stations which were being visited by Brambling, Chaffinch, Reed Bunting and Willow Tit all of which gave good views to our animated birdwatchers.

Then followed an amble through the rest of the bed, with a diversion past the Ringers Hut to note a Badger Sett, led us back to our Snowdrop sentinels which bade us farewell as we moved steadily in the direction of our cars where the route to lunch was soon followed. Dave