

Tuesday 25/11/08 Woolston Eyes**Bright Sunny Fresh and Cool and Dry!**

"Is this a record" I have just asked myself as I see that the weather 'strap line' for our wander is exactly the same as for our ramble round Moore last week! No doubt this state of affairs will change but at least on this our ninth venture of session one we were able to enjoy a bright crisp day of late autumnal sunshine which was at least punctuated rather than carpeted with birds.

The basin area soon furnished our day list with **Tufted Duck** which favour this deep water area for their loafing and feeding activities whilst a little more perseverance against the low dazzling sunshine revealed a small group of **Goldeneye** which had now settled in for the coming winter.

Once the dizzy heights of the Western track of No2 bed was reached we paused to gain less sun encumbered views of the previously noted wildfowl and whilst doing so we were treated to the evocative splendour of skeins of **Pink Footed Geese** as they wandered about the sky in their age old West-East winter movements as they follow the best food supplies available.

Several peering sorties into the river gave the expected rewards of **Grey Heron**, **Cormorant** and **Gadwall** all of which were gratefully viewed until one of those rare moments in birdwatching popped up and rewarded our week in week out footslogging with a treat.

Thus the **Water Rail** which had settled to feeding from a log which lay out on the river from the East Bank of No3 bed did everything it could possibly do to give one and all the rare opportunity to study both its plumage and its feeding activities until Team Tuesday were satiated with this normally evanescent creature.

No3 bed finally accepted us into its sunlit presence but its open waters soon revealed a paucity of birds such is the ever-changing canvas of wildfowl reserves whose habitat is soon exchanged for other more useful feeding and loafing sites at the whim of the weather.

Disappointment nevertheless was not the order of the day and after a little application we picked up **Chaffinch** plus **Reed Bunting** in the centre of the bed and found **Pochard** and **Teal** on the water. At this point we about turned and headed for the surety of lunch. Dave