

Tuesday 12/04/11 0945-1315 Woolston Eyes

Refreshing Northwest BREEZE Bright and Sunny

Weir Lane sat in its sheltered glory on this sunny spring morn but good sense prevailed throughout Team Tuesday and all toggled up as if the weather was closer to winter than spring and this caution soon paid off for there was a stiff reminder in the air that the season hasn't quite forgotten its wintry past!

The basin area although windswept held our attention as we noted the Tufted Duck, Pochard and nesting Great Crested Grebes and there was a further suggestion that the year had turned for there were no longer any Goldeneye for these birds had now moved further north in preparation for their next breeding season.

Sand Martin then drew our attention as at least sixty of these early migrants swooped about the air above us taking the insect bounty that was being buffeted by the breeze. A pair of Buzzards rode the air with effortless ease whilst a hapless Grey Heron attempted to negotiate the Black Headed Gull colony which usually rises in full force to drive away such potential enemies (young and eggs are a potential food source for *ardea cinerea*).

No3 bed then drew us into its seclusion and moved us into this island parish where birds can take their ease in this Harsh Human dictated landscape of ours in Urban UK safe in their unique location to go about their frenetic race into another season of rearing young. Chiffchaff and Blackcap were the dominant warblers singing along our route with the other members of this family of birds only a feather or two away from their arrival (a point proven on our return along this same route an hour or so later when newly arrived Whitethroat joined the chorus.)

The Morgan Hide then enveloped us within its easy viewing comfort and soon Black Necked Grebe were gratefully noted as they quietly moved about the boisterous Black Head Gull Colony and once all of the Team had noted these rare breeding birds all settled into adding a few more species to our tally.

Dunlin, Shelduck, Greylag Goose sauntered onto our list whilst a magnificent female Marsh Harrier stormed into view perhaps stating that it took the prize position but unbeknown to this welcome raptor the pole position had already been claimed by Team Tuesday who had once more treated themselves to a generous helping of that prized pudding on our menu--a morning munching our way through glorious Woolston Eyes. Dave