

Tuesday 30/05/06 Woolston Eyes 1000-1335Bright Sunny and Breezy

Weir Lane sparkled in the sunshine as the team re-assembled for yet another jaunt into the Birdwatching unknown!

There was a plan but as in all things '*the well laid plans of mice and men*' soon altered and we found a new route to No3 bed via No2 bed!

The basin area gave few wildfowl as most of these were elsewhere on breeding duty but at least when we return in the Autumn/Winter we will be able to reap the rewards of their hopefully successful season and see large numbers of over wintering birds.

Our entry onto the north bank of No2 bed caused a stir amongst the breeding **Black Headed Gulls** which chastised us for intruding on their nesting area whilst the air was crisscrossed with a mixed flock of wildfowl including **Gadwall**, **Shoveler** and **Mallard** all males of the species (their female counterparts being involved with the aftermath of associating with these now resting males!)

The north bank of No2 bed had recently been altered and looked quite bare after it's vegetation had been removed but as in all things nature was reasserting itself and before long the bank will have new and vigorous vegetation. This is a typical occurrence at Woolston where many of the seemingly destructive changes (w.r.t nature) caused by a 'working sites' operations are countermanded by the tide of nature's re-colonisation!

**Whitethroat**, **Blackcap** and **Willow Warbler** reminded us that inspite of the cool wind we were deep into spring and this kept the spring in our step as we circumnavigated the bed soon arriving on the south bank track now heading in a westerly direction towards our original goal of No3 bed.

The bridge, that gives No3 bed an air of exclusivity, was soon traversed and we then found ourselves in the Sybil Hogg hide taking in views across the bed which although teeming with life gave little to hold our attention as most of the birds were milling around the more northern stretches of the bed.

The centre hide then rewarded our wanderings with excellent views of **Black Necked Grebes**, which were feeding their young to the delight of our assemblage. Satiated viewing of these rare Grebes having been attained led to the inevitable goal of our cars and satiation of more corporeal needs i.e. Lunch! Dave (2320 30/05/06)