

Plan A,B or C

A recent flight on my local estuary reminded me why it is always best to have 2 or 3 options in mind of where to go before you set your feet on the mud.

Plan A was to head to a favourite spot on the north side of the estuary. However drawing up in the car by the burn I noticed a fellow fowlers car already parked up. Bother, no point going there as I could guarantee he was where I wanted to be. Next time I thought to myself I will rise 30 minutes earlier to secure that spot!

Plan B was to head for the upper reaches of river but again pulling up to the normal parking spot another fowlers car was already there. There was plenty of space for 2 guns up there but this fowler was a notorious yap! Not feeling up to yapping about nonsense the car was turned around and Plan C put in to operation!

With an element of selfish satisfaction the main part of the estuary was reached to find no other fowlers car at the park. Dawn wasn't too far away so I didn't mess about getting my gear out of the truck and organised. A fair yomp ensued to reach my plan C spot. Disappointingly as I approached a dark shape was spotted lying next to the gutter I wanted. Could I be any more unlucky today I thought. It was unusual to see another fowler this far out on the mud. I was on the verge of selecting plan D when to my astonishment the black shape dragged itself off the mud and slipped in to the river channel. Thank god I thought, a seal, so all was not lost!



The flight thereafter was an unqualified success as a Pintail was brought in to the bag. The morning also served as a reminder to me that without doubt it is best to have a plan or two up your sleeve in case of unexpected situations.

TVWA Member