



The 1st of September 2021 has already come and gone these guys in the illustration will soon be stretching their wings in anticipation of mild weather and food a plenty. Going by what I've seen in the fields around Fife and other areas they won't be disappointed. Farm workers never seem to stop I know a few out there and it really is round the clock work with very little spare time.

Whilst fishing the other day I couldn't help but admire 2 guys removing a huge number of bales from a stubble field, considering they had to transport them on a stacked trailer to a cosy storage area some miles away makes it even more impressive. The finished job leaves the fields in perfect condition for thousands of geese that will arrive around mid-September.

Unfortunately these days the farming is so efficient the stubble gets turned over fairly quickly but even although this happens there still seems to be enough feeding in certain fields to keep them returning day after day.



Meantime back in reality if you were lucky enough to get out on the 1st I hope you had a pleasurable morning. It's great to go through the motions and find out if your waders still keep your legs and feet dry, days earlier your non lead cartridges and trusty weapon would have been given a morning or afternoon session at a local clay layout. Like most things preparation is key you don't want any hick-ups once you're out there especially on the opening morning.

For myself I started off with a blank, with no opportunity's coming my way however trying out a new pair of fancy binoculars left me smiling for most of the morning. It can't be stressed enough how much more enjoyable your morning or evening can be with great optics at hand.

The sunrise was pretty spectacular but alas it was typical September weather warm and windless. One thing that never changes early season is the brilliant green colour that brightens up the normally grey flats however it does make it rather slippy a bit like Mortimore and Whitehouse Gone Fishing which was hilarious when Bob took a wee dive whilst after Sea Trout in the Hebrides.

Us Wildfowlers Know only too well how dodgy it is on the tides edge whilst transgressing seaweed and rocks and that green stuff!! Oh! And in the dark.

I wouldn't be seen without a trusty wading stick, falling with binoculars and weapon even in its sleeve would definitely be costly.

JM