



Well it's looking like one of TVWA members might just have his hands full with this 4 month old Labrador that is eating his way into adulthood. I was lucky enough to accompany him and his owner for a short stroll over nearby stubble fields. The pic above was the only time he actually posed, and whilst out walking he really did give us the run around making photo opportunities almost impossible.

It was a reminder how much work a pup is, fitting 3 plus sessions a day doesn't leave much time for other day to day things to get done, even when you're semi-retired! Every day has its own adventure for a pup of this age, and I am glad to say that even although he hadn't met me before he totally accepted my strangeness and peculiar behaviour! All the best young fella.

Since mid-September skeins of Pinkfoot have been coming high over the Lomond's and then turning right towards the Loch, Montrose Basin has been steady building up, and reports of small mixed bags have been coming of the Tay system.



Wildfowling and the path to success

On your local estuary every fowler has his or her favourite areas let's just call them "hot spots". It's no different to salmon angling where you head towards a well-known pool where you've caught before. The excitement when navigating towards such areas never leaves you, which is only natural but let's just hold on a minute. Your best chance of success is probably if the conditions are pretty much the same as the last time you were there, right!

In wildfowling the date, tide, weather and moon phase all have to come into the equation. First you need birds to be there so for some migratory species that's the 1st tick, next the weather was there drought or floods or was it mild or frosty? What about the wind, none, moderate or gales, and don't forget the moon phase along with spring or neap tides. Safety wise you require to know if the tide is inward or outward and if things go well and excitement rises remember to keep an eye on the tide line, you can't move fast with a heavily laden game bag. Ps – Sometimes the moon is hidden by low clouds which may ruin your plans or add to them, yes the weather can be a challenge all on its own.

It's a difficult path out over the flats a well-kept diary is a most useful tool and off course on the odd occasion you will succeed from the sea wall if birds are flying at a reasonable height, meaning also that your boots will remain nice and clean!

JM