



### **Woolston Eyes Reserve, 16 October 2018**

We had a great turnout of 19 members to visit Woolston Eyes Reserve in Warrington next to the Ship Canal which had been pre-booked as a guided tour. The weather stayed dry for us with light cloud and it stayed mild. Access to the reserve is strictly controlled with locked barriers and locked gates to keep out undesirables! We were guided by Ashley, a RSPB warden and David a volunteer who helped us find the hides and birds. The main hide gave excellent views over No 3 bed with lots of Shoveler and Teal, Black-tailed Godwit, Pintail, Little Grebe, Wigeon on the water or wading in the shallows. Close to our hide were feeders and we were delighted to witness a large flock of Greenfinch going mad for the seed! We had wonderful close views of a Kestrel which kept returning to sit on a plank on the ground showing off fine plumage. Our warden was worried that this was very unusual behaviour and might indicate that it was not getting enough food, but we all thought it looked quite plump! We got a brief glimpse of a Willow Tit on the feeder and our guide heard one as well on our walk round. The site is well managed to encourage Black-necked Grebe so a return visit is definitely a good idea. They recommended May to get the warblers. Total species: 27

Stephen Williams

### **Woolston Eyes Nature Reserve, 16th November 2021**

Nineteen members enjoyed a different birding day out at Woolston Eyes guided by Mr Brian Martin, recorder of the Conservation Group. We had to be let through a barrier to access the site and then pass through a fearsomely protected padlocked bridge to get into the reserve. The main hide over No 3 Bed gave us the best views with 3 Snipe paddling in the shallows with their Teal friends close by. At either end of the hide were well stocked feeders attracting Greenfinch, Chaffinch and a very handsome Bullfinch which stayed in position so we could admire his magnificent plumage. Plenty of Teal and Shoveler on the water. Ian Bunker regained his crown as "Birder of the Day" bagging 27 species on a quietish birding day. We hope to revisit the reserve in Spring in a future season.

**Stephen Williams**