# Thursday 17/04/14 0935-1300 Woolston Eyes

***Grey Total Cloud Cover Breezy but at least Dry!***

A Woolston wander was called for after our lowland open-country traipse last week on Chat Moss for here on this site there are hides in which we could take our ease and let the birds come to us but first of all there was a bit of a haul over to the footbridge that leads into No3 bed—that splendid Isle of Peace and Tranquillity that sits only three miles from a rumbustiuos Warrington.

In reality the footfalls we took from Weir Lane were put to good use for along the way there were plenty of opportunities to note a nice spread of species starting with the Weir Basin area which was graced by the presence of Pochard, Tufted Duck and Great Crested Grebe. A Blackcap then tried to fox our ears by uttering a rather scratchy pre-song but soon gave itself away when it moved into its rich deep warbling mode that can sometimes remind us of a Blackbird that has attended Black Sabbath Concerts and taken to amplifying its utterances in a big way!

Thus our happy steps were soon moving all across the footbridge and onto the hide rich No3 bed where we wasted no time in finding the first of these from which we took in the North-South aspect of the wondrous Reedbed which has undergone a superb transformation since Team Thursday last visited the site giving our eyes a feast of open water and ‘interesting channels’ to explore.

A move onward led us to the eastern scaffold hide from which we just about managed a few glimpses of a Reed Warbler which has recently returned from its winter ‘hols’ in Africa---sadly it seemed not to like our UK blanket of grey clouds and stayed firmly in cover refusing to sing its ‘interesting’ (somewhat repetitive I must admit) song.

Undeterred we gained the luxurious comfort of the John Morgan Hide and soon settled to a banquet of birds with the Black Necked Grebes sitting at the head of the table gracing all with glimpses of their finery as they swept about the open waters before us. Hirundines noted earlier from afar then came into focus allowing all to clearly observe the differences betwixt Swallow, Sand Martin and House Martin all of which appeared simply as swirling specs of airborne life when we noted them from the track on No2 bed.

A move over to the Frank Linley Hide to witness the remains of the Barn Owl larder (yes it feasted well on the recent Starling Roost) was then interrupted by a flight of Black Tailed Godwit and Dunlin then before all this fizz of activity unnerved our gathering we gently retreated back to our cars. Dave