

Flevo Birdwatching

birding tours in the Netherlands



Date: Saturday 30th of March 2019

Excursion: National Park Zuid-Kennemerland (dunes) and surroundings morning tour

Guide: Pim

I met Surya at his accommodation in Amsterdam, from here we drove in about 35 minutes to Bloemendaal aan Zee next to the North Sea beach. We arrived at the national park Zuid Kennemerland. We made a hike for about 2 hours to a lake in the dunes, it's named "Vogelmeer" which means "Bird Lake". On our way to the lake we heard and saw many Sky larks, they have a very short tail and their song is fantastic! We also saw a great Bluethroat and heard a few others singing.

We saw many Dunnocks, Common linnets, Common chaffinches, Goldcrest and Stonechats. At the lake we looked from a bird hide to the water. Many ducks were present even three Garganeys, just arrived (two male and one female), a Black necked grebe and the common but very beautiful Great crested grebes. Next to the shoreline we saw a Common redshank, White wagtails and Northern lapwing. Also many geese, like Canada goose, Greylag goose and Egyptian goose. Different species of ducks: Tufted duck, Common pochard, Common teal, Gadwall and Northern shoveler.

And I haven't mentioned the weather yet. It was a blue sky, sunny and not much wind. Very good weather for a morning outside. On our way back to the parking place we also saw a Great spotted woodpecker, Meadow pipets and even more Sky larks showing very well.





Great crested grebe – National Park Zuid Kennemerland.



Common linnet – National park Zuid-Kennemerland.

Our next stop was at a small village near Haarlem, called Spaarndam. Here is some farmland and a small nature reserve that attracts many meadow birds. We saw the elegant Pied avocet with it's uplifting beak. Also a group of Black tailed godwits, the national bird of the Netherlands. On the water also Eurasian wigeons, Common teals, Gadwalls, Common shelducks and Eurasian oystercatcher.



Pied avocet – Spaarndam.



Black tailed godwit – Spaarndam.



Pied avocet & Black tailed godwit – Spaarndam.



Our last stop was an amazing spot. Next to a petrol station, highway, busy train track and lots of planes going to the nearby airport there is an oasis. In a small forrest there is a breeding colony of Eurasian spoonbills. In 2004 the first breeding pair arrives here and amazed many ornithologists. Nowerdays 40 pairs are breeding together with Grey herons and some Egyptian geese.



Eurasian spoonbill – Haarlem.



Egyptian goose – National park Zuid-Kennemerland.

On this morning tour we heard and saw the following **63 birdspecies**:

Canada goose, Greylag goose, Egyptian goose, Mute swan, Garganey, Gadwall, Northern shoveler, Common teal, Eurasian wigeon, Mallard, Common shelduck, Tufted duck, Common pochard, Goldeneye, Common pheasant, Little grebe, Great crested grebe, Black necked grebe, Eurasian spoonbill, Grey heron, Great egret, Great cormorant, Common coot, Eurasian oystercatcher, Pied avocet, Northern lapwing, Black tailed godwit, Common redshank, Black headed gull, Herring gull, Lesser black backed gull, Great black backed gull, Mew gull, Wood pigeon, Feral rock pigeon, Barn swallow, Great spotted woodpecker, Rose ringed parakeet, Eurasian magpie, Northern jackdaw, Carrion crow, Blue tit, Great tit, Sky lark, Meadow pipet, Common chiffchaff, Common chaffinch,

Goldcrest, Winter wren, Common starling, Common blackbird, Song thrush, Red robin, Bluethroat, Stonechat, House sparrow, Dunnock, White wagtail, Brambling, European greenfinch, European goldfinch, common linnet & Common reed bunting.



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