

Flevo Birdwatching

birding tours in the Netherlands



2 october 2017: Half day excursion "Oostvaardersplassen" (8.30-12.30)

Guide: Pim

This morning I met Bonnie & Rudy from Houston, Texas at the parking places near the (closed) visitor centre of the Oostvaardersplassen. The weather forecast was not too good but the weather itself was excellent! No rain at all en just a bit windy.

We first walked to a big bird hide. During the walk we saw Common chaffinch, Great tit, Blue tit, European greenfinch and European goldfinch. Suddenly we saw panic among the geese. An adult White tailed eagle was flying over. It's breeding in this area for the 11th year now!



Red deer – Oostvaardersplassen.

We saw a group of wild horses and red deer. Some were making this special noise because it's their mating season. In the area lives around 3000 red deer! And also around 800 wild "Konik" horses.

From the bird hide we saw just one Eurasian spoonbill (a newborn), but later a group of around 16 was flying over. Soon they will leave to Africa to overwinter there.

Bonnie discovered a red fox. In the area lives around 200 red foxes, because there is plenty of food. On the field we saw hundreds of Barnacle goose and Greylag goose. Also lots of duckspecies like: Eurasian wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Common pochard, Tufted duck, Common shellduck, Mallard and Gadwall.

Far away in a dead tree we saw our second White tailed eagle, this time a more brownish young. The raptors work out well this morning. We saw Common buzzard, Common kestrel, Eurasian sparrowhawk, Northern goshawk and Western marsh harrier!!



White tailed eagle – Oostvaardersplassen.



A Green sandpiper and a flock of Ruffs was flying over. We saw and heard plenty of Bearded reedlings.



On our way back to the visitor centre we also saw Great cormorant, lots of Common starlings, Great spotted woodpecker, Eurasian Magpie, Eurasian Jay and Carrion crow.

In the bird hide we drank a cup of coffee with a Dutch “stroopwafel”.

From the parking place we went to the “dyke”. Here we saw lots of Great crested grebe and Tufted duck, as well Grey wagtail and Nothern wheatear.

During our walk to the bird hide we saw a bird which could be a Wryneck, but it was a second too short to determinate it.



Red deer – Oostvaardersplassen.

After the dyke we went to some bird hides. In the first one we saw a group of about 25 Little grebes!
From the second bird hide we saw an excellent Common kingfisher, showing well!



Common kingfisher – Oostvaardersplassen.



Common Kingfisher – Oostvaardersplassen.

On our walk from this hide back to the car we also saw a Northern willow tit.





We heard and saw this **55 bird species** today:

Mute swan, Greylag goose, Barnacle goose, Common shelduck, Mallard, Gadwall, Northern pintail, Northern shoveler, Eurasian wigeon, Common pochard, Tufted duck, Little grebe, Red crested grebe, Great cormorant, Great egret, Grey heron, Eurasian spoonbill, Common buzzard, Common kestrel, Northern goshawk, Eurasian sparrowhawk, Western marsh harrier, White tailed eagle, Waterrail, Eurasian coot, Northern lapwing, Ruff, Green sandpiper, Herring gull, Black headed gull, Lesser black backed gull, Common tern, Wood pigeon, Common kingfisher, Great spotted woodpecker, Meadow pipet, White wagtail, Song thrush, Robin, Northern wheatear, Winter wren, Common chiffchaff, Great tit, Blue tit, Northern willow tit, Bearded reedling, Eurasian Jay, Eurasian magpie, House sparrow, Common starling, Carrion crow, Common chaffinch, European greenfinch, European goldfinch and Common reed bunting. Also: Red deer, Red fox and "Konik" horses!