

Flevo Birdwatching

birding tours in the Netherlands



Date: 3th of May 2019

Excursion: Oostvaardersplassen morning tour

Guide: Pim



House sparrow – Oostvaardersplassen.

Around 9.00 in the morning I (Guide Pim) met four birdlovers from Maine (USA) at the trainstation of Almere Centrum. We took the car over the dyke to the northern part of the nature reserve Oostvaardersplassen. We stopped in about 20 minutes. In the big lake we saw many Great crested grebes and next to the car we saw White wagtail and Grey headed wagtail.

We made a walk through a field of reed and saw and heard many birdspecies like: Sedge warbler, Reed warbler, Cetti's warbler, Willow warbler, Savi's warbler and Common chiffchaff. We were lucky to find a pair of Bearded reedling (some people may call it Bearded tit).

We arrived at a bird hide which was occupied by many Barn swallows. In the water we saw a dozen Pied avocet, a few Common shelduck and Egyptian goose. On the other side we saw a large Red deer.

Low above the reedfields we saw a few Western marsh harriers hunting. We heard Short toed tree creeper and Common reed bunting and saw Blue tit and Winter wren.

We stopped at another lake where we saw Tufted ducks and Common terns.



Great crested grebe – Oostvaardersplassen.



Our next stop was at the visitor centre. We saw some gorgeous birdspecies like Bluethroat, Common redstart and European goldfinch. What a beautiful colours!



Bluethroat – Oostvaardersplassen.



Common redstart – Oostvaardersplassen.



European goldfinch – Oostvaardersplassen.





From the visitor centre we made a short walk but saw again many birds like Common chaffinch, European greenfinch, Willow warbler, Blackcap (just heard), Long tailed tit and some Northern raven flew over.





Sedge warbler – Oostvaardersplassen.



Barn swallow – Oostvaardersplassen.

After a well deserved cup of tea or coffee with a Dutch cookie called “stroopwafel” we went to the “Oostvaardersfield”, here we saw again many new birdspecies like Common pochard, Barnacle geese, Common sandpiper, Eurasian oystercatcher en Little ringed plover.

From a closeby birdhide we saw at least 15 Common greenshanks, 3 Wood sandpipers and a few Common redshanks. All of these birds are on their way to the north (Scandinavia and Russia).



Common greenshank – Oostvaardersplassen.



Wood sandpiper – Oostvaardersplassen.



It was a lovely morning with good weather conditions. We managed to “catch” the following **68 bird species**:

Mute swan, Greylag goose, Barnacle goose, Egyptian goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Common shelduck, Tufted duck, Common pochard, Great crested grebe, White stork, Grey heron, Great egret, Great cormorant, Common buzzard, Eurasian coot, Eurasian oystercatcher, Pied avocet, Northern lapwing, Little ringed plover, Common greenshank, Common redshank, Wood sandpiper, Common sandpiper, Black headed gull, Lesser black backed gull, Herring gull, Common tern, Wood pigeon, Feral pigeon, Common cuckoo (just heard), Eurasian magpie, Northern jackdaw, Carrion crow, Nothern raven,

Northern willow tit (just heard / flew over), Blue tit, Great tit, Long tailed tit, Bearded reedling, Barn swallow, House martin, Cetti's warbler (just heard), Willow warbler, Common chiffchaff, Sedge warbler, Reed warbler (just heard), Grasshopper warbler (just heard), Savi's warbler (just heard), Eurasian blackcap (just heard), Garden warbler, Common whitethroat, Winter wren, Short toed treecreeper (just heard), Common starling, Common blackbird, Song trush, Bluethroat, Common nightingale, Common redstart, Stonechat, House sparrow, White wagtail, Grey headed wagtail, Common chaffinch, European greenfinch, European goldfinch and Common reed bunting.

I hope you enjoyed your morning of birdwatching!

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