

# Flevo Birdwatching

birding tours in the Netherlands



Date: 4 october 2017

Excursion: "Crazy twitch" to an Imperial eagle near IJsselmuident with a stop at "Schokland" & Half day excursion to "Oostvaardersplassen" nature reserve.

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I met this friendly Baltimore couple around 1pm at the trainstation of Almere Oostvaarders. I told them about the Imperial eagle which was seen the whole morning and only one hour away. They were in for an adventure, but this rare bird won't participate and 30 minutes before we arrives it left.

On our way back we made a short stop at the former island of "Schokland". From the car we saw Stock doves, Great egrets and flocks of Northern lapwings.

Because we lost some time I made this excursion at least 90 minutes longer.



From the visitor centre we walked to a large bird hide. During our walk we saw big flocks of European goldfinches, European greenfinches, Stonechat and even Common redstart. Because of the wind it was hard working to find the birds, but we managed.

From the hide we saw pretty far away a White tailed eagle and a bit later we saw a second one hunting much closer. There was big panic in the group of Greylag goose and Barnacle goose.

We saw a lot of duck species like: Mallard, Eurasian wigeon, Northern shoveler, Northern pintail, Gadwall and Common shellduck.

On our way back to the visitor centre we were lucky to see a Perigrine falcon closeby!

We drove to some other bird hides where we drank a cup of coffee and tea with a Dutch “stroomwafel”.

We were lucky close to the bird hide there was a beautiful Common kingfisher.



**Common kingfisher – Oostvaardersplassen.**

A great egret was hunting for fish and we saw a group of little grebe.

On our way to the last bird hide we saw a red fox. What was he eating? Was it a fish? Was it some rubbish?



**Red fox – Oostvaardersplassen.**



**Great egret – Oostvaardersplassen.**

From the last hide we got a stunning view of a Common kingfisher just metres away. He was killing a stickleback (a fish).

Also beautiful Red crested grebes and Tufted ducks.



**Common kingfisher – Oostvaardersplassen.**

Due to the wind it was hard working to find the birds, but we managed to hear or see the following **45 birdspecies**: Mute swan, Greylag goose, Barnacle goose, Common shelduck, Mallard, Gadwall, Northern pintail, Northern shoveler, Eurasian wigeon, Tufted duck, Little grebe, Red crested grebe, Great cormorant, Great egret, Grey heron, Common buzzard, Common kestrel, Western marsh harrier, Peregrine falcon, White tailed eagle, Common moorhen, Eurasian coot, Northern lapwing, Black

headed gull, Lesser black backed gull, Wood pigeon, Stock dove, Common kingfisher, Meadow pipet, Common redstart, Stonechat, Song thrush, Common chiffchaff, Winter wren, Great tit, Blue tit, Northern willow tit, Eurasian magpie, Western jackdaw, Carrion crow, Northern raven, Common starling, Common chaffinch, European goldfinch and European greenfinch. Also hundreds of Konik-horses, Red deer and a Red fox!

I hope you enjoyed your afternoon of bird watching.

Best regards,

Pim Julsing

