

Flevo Birdwatching

birding tours in the Netherlands



Date: 6th of August 2018

Excursion: Oostvaardersplassen (morningtour)

Guide: Pim

On this hot summerday I met Jennifer and her husband from Hawaii on the trainstation of Almere Centrum around 8.08 am. From here we drove to the nature reserve Oostvaardersplassen. We took the Oostvaardersdyke. On the lake we saw groups of Black headed gulls and Lesser black backed gulls. Due to a long period of high temperatures and almost no rain the water level of the nature reserve was pretty low. The banks of mud was a magnete for many shorebirds.



Our first walk to a bird hike was not dissapointing, unless the warm weather we saw and heard plenty of birds. We saw many juvenile Bearded reedlings, Reed warbler and Sedge warbler. Every ten metres there was another Willow warbler or Common chifchaff. The air was full of Barn swallows, Common swifts and 500-1000 Sand martins.

From the bird hide which was occupied by Barn swallows we saw Canada geese, Greylag geese and Northern lapwings. We heard the really loud song of a Cettis warbler. Ten years ago pretty rare, but nowerdays more common due to the changing climate. We heard the call of a Waterrail and also a Reed bunting was showing itself shortly.

In the reed fields there was a group of almost one thousand Sand martins, they like the many insects in the area. A Spoonbill was flying over.



Juvenile Barn swallow – Oostvaardersplassen.



Sand martin – Oostvaardersplassen.

Our next stop at another bird hide was just amazing. Due to the very low water level there were thousands of shorebirds like: Black tailed godwits, Pied avocets, Ruffs, Common greenshank, Common redshank, Curlew sandpiper, Green sandpiper and hundreds of Northern shovelers, some Common shelducks and a group of Eurasian spoonbills.

Next to the hide we saw a Waterrail passing by, quite rare to see this shy bird in summer. Also a juvenile Bluethroat was sitting on the dry land.



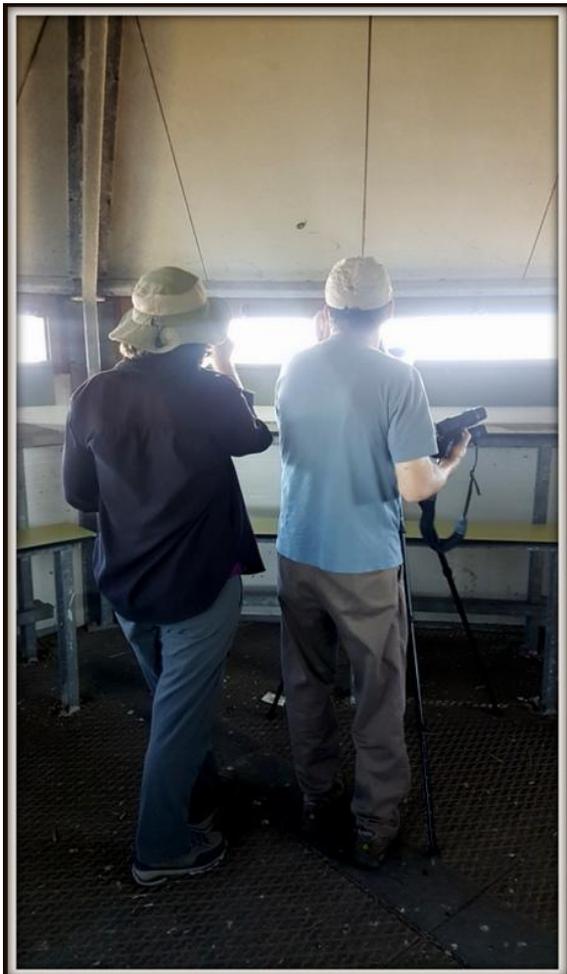
Northern lapwings, Ruffs, Black headed gulls and Curlew sandpipers – Oostvaardersplassen.



Northern shovelers & Pied avocets – Oostvaardersplassen.

Close to the hide we saw two Lesser spotted woodpecker flying over, they have the size of a House sparrow. On the way to the birdhide we heard and got a glimpse of: Great tit, Blue tit, Northern willow tit, Eurasian jay and European goldfinch.

Next stop was at the visitor centre which was suprisely open on Monday. We walked through a wood of willows and saw European greenfinch, Common Chaffinch and a few Spotted flycatcher. A female Western marsh harrier was hunting above the area.



After a dutch cookie called Stroopwafel and some cold water we continued our trip to the Oostvaardersveld.

The bird hide was pretty busy for a Monday. A Great crested grebe was sitting on its nest. Wild horses called Konik horse were on the other side of the lake. Next to the hut there was the smallest grebe of Europe called Little grebe.



Little grebe – Oostvaardersplassen.



Konik horse – Oostvaardersplassen.



We managed to hear and see lots of different **70 birdspecies** this morning like:

Canada goose, Barnacle goose, Greylag goose, Mute swan, Common shellduck, Rudy shellduck, Northern shoveler, Gadwall, Mallard, Common pochard, Tufted duck, Little grebe, Great crested grebe, Eurasian spoonbill, Grey heron, Great egret, Great cormorant, Western marsh harrier, Common buzzard, Water rail, Common moorhen, Common coot, Eurasian oystercatcher, Black winged stilt, Pied avocet, Northern lapwing, Black tailed godwit, Ruff, Curlew sandpiper, Common sandpiper, Green sandpiper, Common greenshank, Common redshank, Black headed gull, Herring gull, Lesser black backed gull, Common tern, Wood pigeon, Stock dove, Common swift, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Eurasian jay, Eurasian magpie, Western jackdaw, Carrion crow, Northern willow tit, Blue tit, Great tit, Long tailed tit, Bearded reedling, Sand martin, House martin, Barn swallow, Cettis warbler, Common chiffchaff, Willow warbler, Reed warbler, Sedge warbler, Eurasian blackcap, Winter wren, Common starling, Common blackbird, Spotted flycatcher, Blue throat, House sparrow, White wagtail, Common chaffinch, European greenfinch, European goldfinch and Reed bunting.

Best regards,

Pim

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