

Flevo Birdwatching

birding tours in the Netherlands



Half day excursion Oostvaardersplassen

Date: April the 7th 2018

Guide: Pim

Around 8.00 a.m I met Kenta at his hotel in Almere. It was my second time I guide this friendly Japanese man in the Oostvaardersplassen.

Today's goal was to find a "Blue throat". It was the first spring day with temperatures around 20 degrees celcius. So hopefully the blue throats were very active.

We started at a viewing point. Especially this winter was very hard for the animals in the nature reserve. The area still looked like the African Serengeti but in about a month flowers are growing everywhere.

We saw hundreds of Barnacle goose, Black headed gull and even a little gull.

From the visitor centre we made a walk of a couple of hours. The first stop at a bird hide was very succesfull. A beautiful Bluethroat was posing for us. Today we managed to see 14 of them!



From a distance a Greater spotted woodpecker was drumming.

We saw just one bearded reedling, a female.

We walk through a tunnel under the railway and walked around the "Oostvaardersveld".

Here some more Bluethroats and some Stonechats.

Some Bearded reedling were singing in top of the vegetation.

We saw a group of red deer and later the smaller roe deer.

From a bird hide we saw a pair of Mute swan, some Great crested grebe and we heard the call of Little grebes.

Some Eurasian jays were flying over.

At the next bird hide we saw some ducks like: Common teal, Northern shoveler, Common pochard and Tufted duck.



Red deer – Oostvaardersplassen.



Roe deer – Oostvaardersplassen

Suddenly we saw a great bird, the Great grey shrike. This overwintering bird in the Netherlands eats mice and small birds for breakfast and even for dinner.



Great grey shrike – Oostvaardersplassen.

We saw during our walk: Blue tit, Great tit and Northern willow tit.

After the hike we stopped at the visitor centre. Last time I met Kenta he give me a postcard with Japanese Cranes on it so this time I bought him a postcard with.....a bluethroat!

We than drove to the dyke and had a cop of coffee with a Dutch cookie called: Stroopwafel.

We made a short walk and heard some new birds like Savi's warbler, Sedge warbler, Cettis warbler and the call of a Water rail.

Some spoonbills already arrived from Africa.

Our last stops were at the Lepelaarplassen, here we saw Pied avocet, Great egret and Common shellduck. We were lucky to find some overwintering ducks like Merganser and Smew!





Stonechat – Oostvaardersplassen.



Great black backed gull – Almere.



There he is: The Bluethroat at the Oostvaardersplassen nature reserve!

This morning we managed to see and hear the following **59 bird species**:

Mute swan, Greylag goose, White fronted goose, Egyptian goose, Barnacle goose, Common shelduck, Mallard, Gadwall, Northern pintail, Northern shoveler, Common teal, Common pochard, Tufted duck, Water rail, Eurasian coot, Pied avocet, Little ringed plover, Black headed gull, Little gull, Herring gull, Mew gull, Lesser black backed gull, Great black backed gull, Common wood pigeon, Great spotted woodpecker, Sky lark, Meadow pipet, Barn swallow, White wagtail, Blue headed wagtail, Robin, Blue throat, Stone chat, Song thrush, Common starling, Common blackbird, Red wing, Eurasian blackcap, Sedge warbler, Savi's warbler, Cettis warbler, Willow warbler, Common chiffchaff, Winter wren, Great tit, Blue tit, Northern willow tit, Bearded reedling, Short toed treecreeper, Great grey shrike, Eurasian magpie, Eurasian jay, Western jackdaw, Carion crow, Northern raven, Common chaffinch, European goldfinch, European greenfinch and Common reed bunting.

Have a safe journey and hopefully we'll meet again!

