

Flevo Birdwatching

birding tours in the Netherlands



Date: **7th of June 2018**

Tour: Full day tour Oostvaardersplassen / Naardermeer

Guide: Pim

Weather: 28 degrees celcius, blue sky.

Around 8.30 am I met Karen & Bob from Sacramento (California) at the small trainstation of Almere. We took the highway (A6) to the city of Lelystad. Were we left the highway we saw lots of White storks with their big nests. In every nest was at least one young.



White stork – Lelystad.

We saw also a Common kestrel, Carion crow and Western jackdaw. In about 10 minutes we drove to the Oostvaardersplassen nature reserve.

From the visitor centre we walked to a bird hide. In the willow wood we saw lots of birds like Spotted flycatcher, Common redstart, European goldfinch and many more.

It was still in the morning and the temperature was already 25 degrees celcius. From the reed fields we heard and saw Marsh warbler, Reed warbler and Sedge warbler. Some Western marsh harriers were hunting above the area.

After some bridges we enter the area that looks like a savanna. Due to a lot of mammals the trees dissappeared. After a strong winter lots of Red deer and even horses died, there was a lot to do about the area. Maybe in the nearby future they will more take care of the population.



Next to the road we saw some Blue throats showing well. Winter wrens and Common redstarts also loves this area. Under the birdhide there is a nest of Red fox, but they only showed themselves for some seconds.



Sedge warbler – Oostvaardersplassen.

On the large field we saw hundreds of Greylag goose and also Canada goose & Barnacle goose.



Great crested grebe – Oostvaardersplassen.



From the second birdhide we saw Garganey, Northern shoveler, Northern lapwing and the national bird of The Netherlands: Black tailed godwit. There was also one rare Black winged stilt!

We saw hundreds of Red deer and wild horses.

In the air we already saw a group of Common swifts, Barnacle swallow and House martin.



Butterflies on horseshit – Oostvaardersplassen.

It was now lunchtime and after we visited the visitor centre we ate our lunch at the “Kleine Praambult”, bread with cheese and an egg.



From this viewing point we saw some Western marsh harrier, Common pochard and we heard the Common cuckoo. We went to another bird hide, they were occupied by Barn swallows!

From the hide we also saw Eurasian spoonbill, Great egret and Little egret.



Barn swallow – Oostvaardersplassen.



From this spot we took the car to the dyke. On the left hand the nature reserve and on our right hand the “Markermeer”.

We went to the visitor centre on the other side of the Oostvaardersplassen. Here we saw a Red fox!

Also some “Bambi’s” (young red deer) with their white spots. Here also Eurasian Oystercatcher, Pied avocet and lots of Greylag geese.



Red deer – Oostvaardersplassen.

After this stop we drove all the way to the oldest nature reserve in The Netherlands: Naardermeer. There was no time left for a hike but at the lake we saw some Purple heron flying over. A local rare Cetti's warbler was singing from nearby.

Close to the viewing point we met "Annie Mostert", this is a lady of 93 years old living here whole live in this area. She was enthusiastic to meet Karen and Bob. She lives for over 70 years in this building from 1883. She is very vital for her age. It was a very special meeting!

Today we managed to see not less than 74 birdspecies:

Canada goose, Barnacle goose, Greylag goose, Egyptian goose, Bar headed goose, Mute swan, Common shelduck, Garganey, Northern shoveler, Gadwall, Mallard, Common teal, Tufted duck, Common pochard, Little grebe, Great crested grebe, White stork, Eurasian spoonbill, Grey heron, Purple heron, Great egret, Little egret, Great cormorant, Western marsh harrier, Common buzzard, Common coot, Eurasian oystercatcher, Black winged stilt, Pied avocet, Northern lapwing, Little ringed plover, Black tailed godwit, Black headed gull, Herring gull, Lesser black backed gull, Common tern, Wood pigeon, Common cuckoo, Common swift, Great spotted woodpecker, Common kestrel, Hobby, Eurasian magpie, Western jackdaw, Carion crow, Northern raven, Great tit, Barn swallow, House martin, Cetti's warbler, Willow warbler, Common chiffchaff, Reed warbler, Sedge warbler, Marsh warbler, Eurasian blackcap, Garden warbler, Common whitethroat, Winter wren, Short toed treecreeper, Common starling, Common blackbird, Song thrush, Spotted flycatcher, Red robin, Blue throat, Common redstart, House sparrow, White wagtail, Common chaffinch, European greenfinch, Common linet, European goldfinch and Common reed bunting. (74 birdspecies!)

Also: Red fox, Red deer, Konik horse and Hare.

Karen & Bob it was a pleasure to guide you through the Oostvaardersplassen and the Naardermeer.

I hope you enjoyed it.

Best regards,

Pim