

Flevo Birdwatching

birding tours in the Netherlands

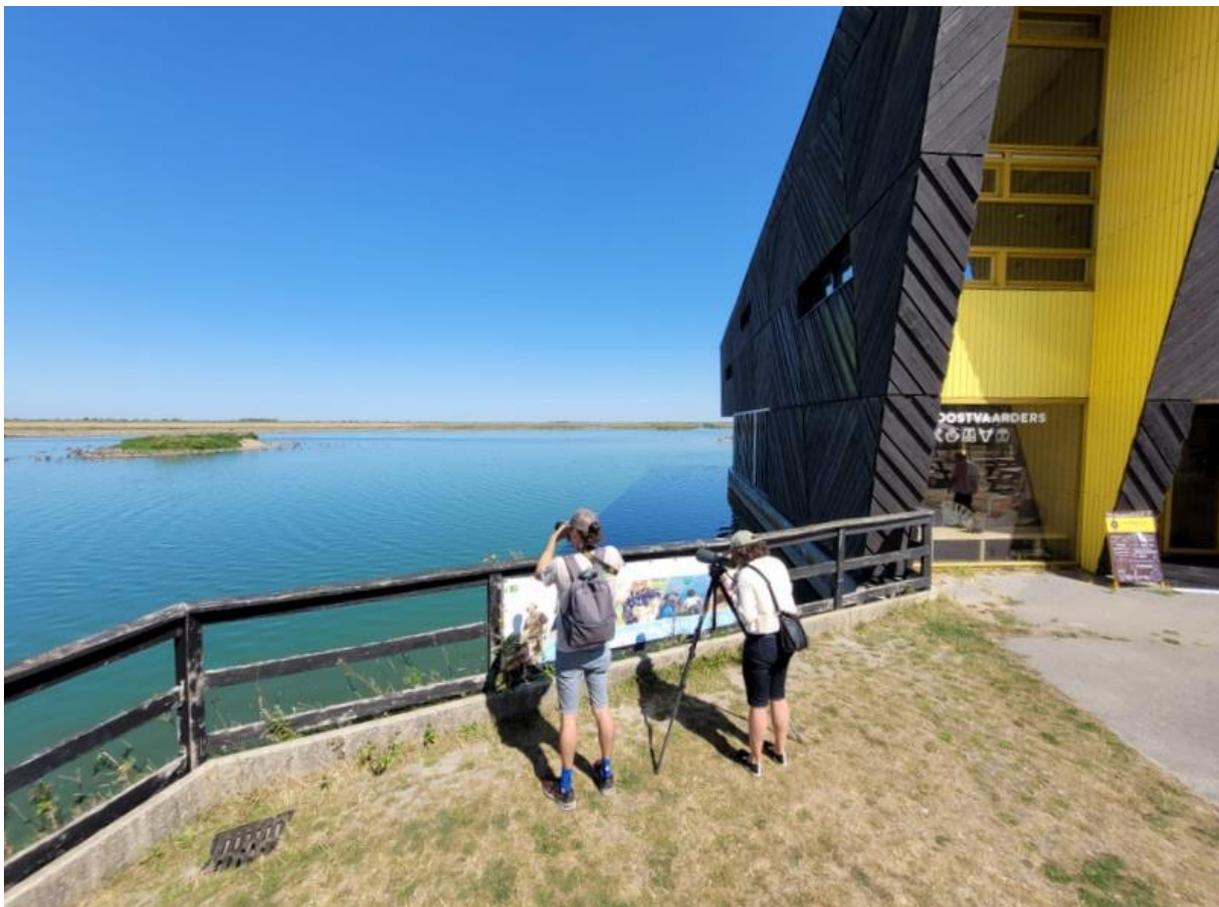


Date: 13th of august 2022

Excursion: Oostvaardersplassen

Guide: Pim

Around 1.30 pm I met Andy & Janet at the tiny train station of Almere Centrum. From here we drove in about 10 minutes to the southside of the Oostvaardersplassen, part of national park "New Land". Next to the visitor centre we saw hundreds of Greylag geese and also a small group of Barnacle geese ("Barnie"), mostly an overwintering bird.



We also saw Northern lapwing, Black headed gull, Lesser black backed gull and a Common sandpiper. The air was filled with House martins. On the other side of the water we saw the first group of Eurasian spoonbills. But another great sighting was a group of Common snipes and just a few Ruffs.

From the top of the building we got a great view. Miles away we saw a group of hundreds of Red deer. Above some woodland we saw two Common buzzards. Also present were: Gadwall, Mallard, Egyptian geese, Eurasian wigeon & Northern shoveler. And don't forget the Starlings 😊

Just when we were about to leave Janet found a Red fox next to a Heck cattle bull! In the area are many Red foxes because there is lots of food for them to eat. Another gorgeous birdspecies we saw was the elegant Pied avocet!



Greylag goose – Oostvaardersplassen.



Greylag goose – Oostvaardersplassen.

We drove on the dyke to the northern side of the area. We made a stop and saw many Common terns, Tufted ducks and the beautiful Great crested grebes. Also Great cormorants were present!

Earlier on the dyke we saw another Common buzzard and also Common kestrel. White wagtails were common on the stones next to the dyke.



Red fox – Oostvaardersplassen.

Our next stop was next to a recreational lake and our target was flying closeby; the Black tern!

We drove to a parking place and made a hike to a birdhide. With the heat and time of the day small birds were having a siesta, but we managed to catch: Great tit, Blue tit, Common chiffchaff, Long tailed tit and Common blackbird!

From the hide we saw a rare bird for the area; a juvenile Greater flamingo. Normally you have to travel to southern Europe to see this colourful bird. But a juvenile is not so colourful at all.

Also from the hide another Common sandpiper but also Green sandpipers and some Ruffs. In and around the hide we saw lots of Barn swallows & Sand martins. In the vegetation we saw Reed warblers and we heard the distinctive song of the Cetti's warbler. One mile away we saw a Western marsh harrier flying over!





Eurasian spoonbill – Oostvaardersplassen.



Greater flamingo – Oostvaardersplassen.





Barn swallow – Oostvaardersplassen.

Our next stop was at the visitor centre where we saw Stock dove and nesting Barn swallows. Also lots of Northern shovelers.

Our next stop was spectacular. We made a hike to a bird hide and suddenly two Short toed (snake) eagles were flying low above our heads. Amazing! This is a rare birdspecies in the area but also in The Netherlands. This year is an influx of the Short toed eagle from Southern Europe and not less than 20 birds are in the Netherlands.

From the hide, the clubhouse, we saw a Great crested grebe with three chicks. Also we saw Common pochard, earlier this afternoon we also found Common shelducks.

Our next stop was at spotters hill. We saw a group of the colourful Rudy shelducks. Far away we saw two immature White tailed eagles, the iconic birdspecies of this area. It's nickname is flying door because of it's wingspan of 2.30 metres!





Short toed snake eagle – Oostvaardersplassen.

The next bird hide we visited we saw also a birdspecies on migration; 3 common Greenshanks and also the smallest grebe of Europe; the Little grebe is summer plumage!



Eurasian spoonbill – Oostvaardersplassen.



Text & photos: Pim Julsing © 2022.

On this very hot afternoon we managed to catch the following birdspecies:

Canada goose, Egyptian goose, Greylag goose, Barnacle goose, Mute swan, Common shelduck, Rudy shelduck, Northern shoveler, Gadwall, Mallard, Eurasian wigeon, Common pochard, Tufted duck, Stock dove, Wood pigeon, Eurasian coot, Little grebe, Great crested grebe, Greater flamingo, Pied avocet, Northern lapwing, Ruff, Common snipe, Common sandpiper, Green sandpiper, Common greenshank, Black headed gull, Herring gull, Lesser black backed gull, Common tern, Black tern, Great cormorant, Eurasian spoonbill, Grey heron, Great egret, Osprey, Short toed snake eagle, Western marsh harrier, White tailed eagle, Common buzzard, Great spotted woodpecker (heard only), Common kestrel, Eurasian jay (heard only), Magpie, Carrion crow, Blue tit (heard only), Great tit, Long tailed tit, Sand martin, House martin, Barn swallow, Cetti's warbler, Common chiffchaff, Reed warbler, Short toed tree creeper (heard only), Starling, Blackbird, White wagtail & European goldfinch!

(59 birdspecies)