

Flevo Birdwatching

birding tours in the Netherlands



Day 1

Date: **16th of April 2018**

Excursion: **Oostvaardersplassen** nature reserve (half-day)

Guide: Pim

I met Donna around 8.30 a.m. at the main station of Almere. From here we drove in about 20 minutes to the nature reserve "the Oostvaardersplassen". From the dyke we start with a short walk to a bird hide.

Here we heard the really loud song of a couple of Cettis warblers. This bird species was rare in the Netherlands about 15 years ago. But due to a warmer climate it's breeding range is more north.

In the reed fields we heard some Reed warblers, Savi's warbler and from the vegetation we heard lots of Common chiffchaffs and Willow warblers.



From this place we drove to the visitor centre for a short walk. We saw some Blue tits and our first Blue throat of the day. More to follow. We saw also a male and female Common chaffinch.

And also a beautiful bird was singing for us: a male Common redstart.

Barn swallows just arrived from Africa.



Common redstart – Oostvaardersplassen.



White wagtail – Oostvaardersplassen.

From here we drove in about 3 minutes to the “Oostvaardersveld” (field) for some more birds. We went for a longer walk. From a bird hide we saw at least 5 Ringed ouzel, not so common. Also a Fieldfare hasn't left yet. It's breeding ground are in the north of Europe.

On the water we saw Northern shoveler, Common teal, Gadwall, Mallard, Great crested grebe and Eurasian coot. Next to the birdhide a Grasshopper warbler was singing like a.....grashopper!



A Northern raven was flying over and we heard it's loud call. From the next viewing point we saw a sleeping Red fox. Also in a small lake some Northern pintail and Eurasian spoonbill.

In this nature reserve the winter was very hard to lot's of mammals. Only the fittest survived. On the field lots of Black headed gull and also Little gull.



Red deer – Oostvaardersplassen.

Back at the field we got some great views of Stonechat, Common whitethroat and the amazing Blue throat!!



Common whitethroat – Oostvaardersplassen.



Blue throat – Oostvaardersplassen.

After this walk we drunk coffee with a stroopwafel next to the canal. Here we saw our first House martins. After this break we drove to our last stop. Underway we saw three White storks flying above the woods.

At our last stop we saw the big nest of the White tailed eagle again, earlier we have seen one adult bird next to the nest. A Common kestrel was flying over.

We had lovely spring weather this morning full of birds!

Spring

Sound the flute!

Now it's mute!

Bird's delight,

Day and night,

Nightingale,

In the dale,

Lark in sky,—

Merrily,

Merrily merrily, to welcome in the year.

From: William Blake (1789)





Sedge warbler – Oostvaardersplassen.

Today we heard and seen this **65 birdspecies**:

Mute swan, Greylag goose, Barnacle goose, Egyptian goose, Common shelduck, Mallard, Gadwall, Northern pintail, Common pochard, Common teal, Tufted duck, Great crested grebe, Little grebe, Great cormorant, Grey heron, Great egret, White stork, Eurasian spoonbill, Common buzzard, Common kestrel, Eurasian sparrowhawk, Western marsh harrier, White tailed eagle, Water rail, Eurasian coot, Ringed plover, Northern lapwing, Herring gull, Black headed gull, Lesser black backed gull, Little gul, Wood pigeon, Great spotted woodpecker, Barn swallow, House martin, Meadow pipet, White wagtail, Dunnock, Robin, Blue throat, Common redstart, Song thrush, Stonechat, Common blackbird, Fieldfare, Ringed ouzel, Black cap, Common whitethroat, Sedge warbler, Grasshopper warbler, Savi's warbler, Cettis warbler, Willow warbler, Common chiffchaff, Winter wren, Blue tit, Eurasian magpie, Eurasian jay, Western jackdaw, Carrion crow, Northern raven, House sparrow, Common chaffinch, European greenfinch and Common reed bunting.

Also: Roe deer, Red deer, Red fox, Konik horse and Heck cattle.

Hope you enjoyed your morning of birding.

Best regards,

Pim.