

# Flevo Birdwatching

birding tours in the Netherlands



Date: Saturday 23th of March 2019

Excursion: Oostvaardersplassen morning tour

Guide: Pim



Around 9 o'clock I met Sara & Ej from the USA at the trainstation of Almere Centrum. We took the highway to the north and stopped at the colony of White storks in a electricity pole. The large bird were renovate their big nests. Sometimes you heard the clattering of their beaks.

In the seventies the white storks nearly dissapeared from The Netherlands, due to some help of many volunteers at White stork stations they are nowerdays more common. In The Netherlands you can find around 1000 breeding pairs.







From the White stork we then drove to the nature reserve Oostvaardersplassen and start with a 2 hours hike (return) to birdhide "Schollebaar" which means "Cormorant" in Old Dutch. Near the visitor centre we saw a Short toed treecreeper and many White wagtails. Also Blue tit and Great tit were showing well. At the first bird hide a Bluethroat was really giving away a show just metres away. During our walk we saw and heard about 7 Bluethroats. Sometimes we heard the explosive song of Cetti's warbler, it's hard to see this mostly hidden bird. Climate change is bad news for many birds.

But the Cetti's warbler is breeding more northly since the weather is more friendly. It's getting more and more common in the Netherlands.



From the reedfield we heard strange noises of calling Water rails. We saw Common reed buntings and an amazing male Bearded reedling (or Bearded tit). Groups of Greylag, White fronted and Barnacle geese flew over.

Despite the grey weather we managed to see a good variety of raptors like Perigrine falcon, many Common buzzards, Marsh harrier and Northern goshawk.





From the birdhide we saw nesting Great cormorants and also Common shellducks.

We stopped shortly at the visitor centre. From here we drove just a few minutes to our next destination. A Common kingfisher was sitting next to it's nest.



Also a good variety of ducks like Common teal, Northern shoveler, Tufted duck and Common pochard. Now it was time for a cup of tea and coffee with a Dutch speciality: Stroopwafel.



We stopped at another two viewing points and saw thousands of Barnacle geese. In about a month they will fly to their breeding grounds in the north of Russia, Nova Zembla.

On the field also some wild horses (“Konik horse”) and Red deer, we also saw a couple of Roe deer.

We saw and heard the following 57 birdspecies this morning:

Mute swan, Barnacle goose, Greylag goose, White fronted goose, Egyptian goose, Common Shellduck, Northern shoveler, Gadwall, Mallard, Common teal, Common pochard, Northern pintail, Tufted duck, Great crested grebe, White stork, Cattle egret, Great egret, Grey heron, Great cormorant, Northern goshawk, Marsh harrier, Common buzzard, Perigrine falcon, Waterrail, Common coot, Oystercatcher, Northern lapwing, Black headed gull, Hering gull, Lesser black backed gull, Stock dove. Wood pigeon, Common kingfisher, Eurasian magpie, Northern jackdaw, Carion crow, Northern willow tit, Blue tit, Great tit, Bearded reedling, Long tailed tit, Cetti’s warbler, Common chiffchaff, Winter wren, Short toed treecreeper, Common starling, Common blackbird, Song trush, Robin, Bluethroat, Stonechat, White wagtail, Meadow pipet, Common chaffinch, European greenfinch, European goldfinch & Reed bunting.

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