

Flevo Birdwatching

birding tours in the Netherlands



Excursion Oostvaardersplassen 8.30-14.00

Guide: Pim

Around 8.30 I met Lenny at the trainstation at Almere Centrum. We took the highway to Lelystad because I wanted to show him the White storks in a power pylon. We saw plenty of this large birds and continued our ride to the Oostvaardersplassen nature reserve.



Around 9.00 o'clock we started our first hike. We already heard lots of birds like: Willow warbler, White wagtail, Common blackbird and European greenfinch.

But the most amazing bird showing very well was the colourful Bluethroat!

The bluethroat was singing and also flying some short distances. This bird has also a marvelous orange tail.

We heard a Common cuckoo and suddenly two birds were flying over. A cuckoo is a nest parasite. It puts it's eggs in a nest of some other birdspecies.

During our hike we saw lots of Common redstarts. This bird always sings from the highest point in a tree. We saw at least ten of them.

During our walk in what was a forest a couple of years ago we als saw lots of Winter wrens.

Great cormorant were flying over to their breeding colony closeby.

Some great Western marsh harriers were hunting above the reed fields.

In about 30 minutes we arrived at the first bird hide (or second). Lots of people were waiting for some young red fox to show up. They had their nest under the hide!



Common redstart – Oostvaardersplassen.

From the bird hide we saw lots of Northern shovelers, Gadwall, Mallard and Common shelducks. On the field hundreds of Barnacle goose and Greylag goose.



Northern wheatear – Oostvaardersplassen.

Close to the next bird hide we heard singing Garden warblers, Common blackcaps and some European goldfinches. Far away we saw hundreds of Red deer and some wild horses called “Konik horse”.



Spotted flycatcher – Oostvaardersplassen.

On our way back we saw a Spotted flycatcher, also some more Common redstarts. A Marsh warbler was singing very fanatic.





Common redstart – Oostvaardersplassen.



We took a short break at the visitor centre and continued our tour for a second hike in a much more greener area called “Oostvaardersveld”.

From the bird hide we saw a rare Red backed shrike. Also Common pochard, Eurasian oystercatcher and lots of Mute swan.

The hide was occupied by Barn swallows, they had their nest inside the hut.

During our walk we saw Great tit, Blue tit and Common chiffchaff.

A osprey was flying over, not such a common sighting as in the USA!



Barn swallow – Oostvaardersveld.



Common blackcap – Oostvaardersveld.

From the next bird hide we saw a Little egret, we also saw some Great egrets today!

In a small water we saw two Eurasian spoonbills. A male stonechat was showing well.

We drank a cop of

coffee and tea at a nesting place of lots of House martins.



High in the air we saw Common swifts and Common buzzards. The weather today was sunny and not much wind, about 25 degrees celcius.



Markermeer – Flevoland.

Our last hike was near the dyke. It was easy to see the difference in water level between the Oostvaardersplassen area and the big lake called Markermeer (part of the bigger IJsselmeer).

During this last walk we saw Sedge warbler and lots of Barn swallows.



Sedge warbler – Oostvaardersplassen.

We managed to see and hear the following **70 birdspecies**:

Mute swan, Greylag goose, Barnacle goose, Egyptian goose, Common shelduck, Gadwall, Northern shoveler, Eurasian wigeon, Mallard, Common pochard, Tufted duck, Red crested grebe, White stork, Eurasian spoonbill, Grey heron, Great egret, Little egret, Great cormorant, Osprey, Eurasian sparrowhawk, Common buzzard, Common kestrel, Western marsh harrier, Eurasian coot, Eurasian oystercatcher, Northern lapwing, Black headed gull, Herring gull, Lesser black backed gull, Common tern, Great black backed gull, Common swift, Wood pigeon, Common cuckoo, Great spotted woodpecker, Red backed shrike, Eurasian jay, Eurasian magpie, Western jackdaw, Carrion crow, Great tit, Blue tit, Barns swallow, House martin, Willow warbler, Common chiffchaff, Sedge warbler, Reed warbler, Marsh warbler, Common blackcap, Garden warbler, Common whitethroat, Winter wren, Short toed tree creeper, Common starling, Common blackbird, Spotted flycatcher, Bluethroat, Common redstart, Stonechat, Northern wheatear, House sparrow, Blue headed wagtail, Grey wagtail, White wagtail, Common chaffinch, European greenfinch, Common linet, Common goldfinch and Common reed bunting.

Lenny I hope you enjoyed your excursion. Enjoy your stay in The Netherlands.

Greetings from Pim.

