

Flevo Birdwatching

birding tours in the Netherlands



Excursion to the “Oostvaardersplassen” nature-reserve, between Almere and Lelystad in The Netherlands.

Date: 27th of april (Kingsday)

Your guide: Pim



On this Kingsday (27th of april 2017) I was pleased to guide Geoff(rey) and his lovely wife in the Oostvaardersplassen. When I left home about 7.15 in the morning there was still ice on top of my car, it was only about 2.5 degrees celcius, pretty cold for the end of april.

I met these people from California at the station Almere Muziekwijk around 7.21. Birding starts right away with Wood pigeon, Blackbird and Western jackdaw. In about twenty minutes we arrived at a viewing point at the border of the reserve. We saw thousands of Barnacle goose, our fist Common greenshank, House martins and a interesting raptor; it was a very pale Perigrine falcon, maybe from northern origine.



There was a total panic under the geese. A White tailed eagle was sitting on the ground. In Dutch we cal it “vliegende deur” wich means “flying door” because it has surge a wide wings.

In the Oostvaardersplassen there is one breeding pair for about ten years. In winter time we have about seven birds in the area.



Almost 3 kilometres away we saw the huge nest of the White tailed eagle. There was a second bird on the nest. The nest is almost 4 meters wide.



On our next stop, on the maybe highest hill in Holland we got a better view of the White tailed eagle sitting on the ground. In a small pond we saw a lot of ducks like: Northern shoveler, Tufted duck, Common teal, Common Shelduck and Gadwall. Some foxes were walking around.

We also saw Ruffs, Spotted redshanks and Common Greenshanks. And a pair of Black necked grebe, pretty rare in the area!

After this view point we go for a hike and started at the visitors centre. In the woods or what left of them lots of Common redstarts, Winterwrens, Blue tits, Great tits and Northern willow tits.

At the birdhide we had a cop of coffee or tea with a “stropwafel”. Lots of ruffs (hundred or more) and hundreds of dunlins shows very well. We got an excellent view of the Bluethroat.



On our way back we saw a Common kestrel and Dunnock.

Now it was time for lunch. We drive for about 3 minutes and than walk to a bird hide.

A konik horse was having a hard time to give birth.



Our lunch with eggs, cheese and some avocado we had together with Barn swallows coming pretty close.

Above the water also Sand martins show well.



A green sandpiper and a pair of Little ringed plover were sitting next to the bird hide.

The not very common Black winged stilt was also there.

Blue headed wagtail was walking on the field, the White wagtail was very common today.

Two Green sandpipers were sitting next to the water.



On our walk back to the car we heard a Grasshopper warbler and above the canal we heard Common Kingfisher. Luckily later on the excursion we also get a view of a kingfisher.



We made a bonus stop at a nesting place of White storks!



Our next stop was at a lake. We were looking for the Red necked grebe, but it did not show up. There were plenty of Great crested grebe. Above the water lots of Little gulls and Common terns.



Our next stop was at the dyke. We heard and seen a Cetti's warbler and Pied avocets.



We made a stop at the visitor centre of the "Lepelaarplassen". At our stops here it was much too windy for plenty of birds.

Our last stop was at the Almere-side Visitor centre of the Oostvaardersplassen.

Good views of Barnacle goose, Pied avocet, Lesser black backed gull, Western Marsh harrier and Eurasian Oystercatcher.

I have had a great day with this friendly people from the westcoast.

Thanks for joining the excursion and have a good and safe journey!

We have seen lots of birds, **88 bird species**. *=only heard.

Mute swan, Greylag goose, Barnacle goose, Egyptian goose, Common shelduck, Mallard, Gadwall, Eurasian wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Common teal, Common pochard, Tufted duck, Northern pintail, Black necked grebe, Great crested grebe, Great cormorant, Great egret, Grey heron, White stork, Eurasian spoonbill, White tailed eagle, Western marsh harrier, Common buzzard, Northern Goshawk, Common kestrel, Perigrine falcon, Water rail (*), Eurasian coot, Eurasian oystercatcher, Pied avocet, Black winged stilt, Common ringed plover, Little ringed plover, Golden plover, Northern lapwing, Dunlin, Wood sandpiper, Green sandpiper, Spotted redshank, Common greenshank, Ruff, Black headed gull, Herring gull, Lesser black backed gull, Little gull, Common tern, Wood pigeon, Common Kingfisher, Great spotted woodpecker, Sand martin, Barn swallow, House martin, Meadow pipet, White wagtail, Blue headed wagtail, Dunnock, European robin (*), Bluethroat, Common redstart, Northern wheatear, Song thrush, Common blackbird, Garden warbler (*), Eurasian Blackcap, Common Whitethroat, Sedge warbler, Grasshopper warbler (*), Cetti's warbler, Eurasian reed warbler, Willow warbler, Common chiffchaff, Winter wren, Great tit, Blue tit, Northern willow tit, Eurasian nuthatch, Eurasian magpie, Eurasian jay, Western jackdaw, Carrion crow, Northern raven (*), Common starling, House sparrow, Common chaffinch, Common linnet, European goldfinch, European greenfinch and Common reed bunting.

And we have seen some mammals: Like the Red fox, Konik horse, Heck cattle egret, Red deer. Roe deer and last but not least Bank vole (the mouse).





Greetings from your guide Pim.



This was your present a can of stroopwafels, but it was still in my backpack. So next time I will bring it again 😊