

Flevo Birdwatching

Date: April 23rd, 2017

Area visited: Texel Southernmost of the chain of islands between Waddenzee and Northsea On the island from 08.45 until 16.00 hrs.

Guide: Robert de Groot

| | Nederlandse naam | English name | Scientific name |
|-----|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (H) | Fuut | Great Crested Grebe | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> |
| | Dodaars | Little Grebe | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> |
| | Aalscholver | Great Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> |
| | Grote zilverreiger | Great Egret | <i>Casmerodius albus</i> |
| | Blauwe reiger | Grey Heron | <i>Ardea cinerea</i> |
| | Lepelaar | (Eurasian) Spoonbill | <i>Platalea leucorodia</i> |
| | Knobbelzwaan | Mute Swan | <i>Cygnus olor</i> |
| | Grauwe gans | Greylag Goose | <i>Anser anser</i> |
| | Grote Canadese gans | Greater Canada Goose | <i>Branta canadensis</i> |
| | Brandgans | Barnacle Goose | <i>Branta leucopsis</i> |
| | Rotgans | Brent Goose | <i>Branta bernicla</i> |
| | Bergeend | (Common) Shelduck | <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> |
| | Nijlgans | Egyptian Goose | <i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i> |
| | Smient | (Eurasian) Wigeon | <i>Anas penelope</i> |
| | Wilde eend | Mallard | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> |
| | Krakeend | Gadwall | <i>Anas strepera</i> |
| | Pijlstaart | (Northern) Pintail | <i>Anas acuta</i> |
| | Slobeend | (Northern) Shoveler | <i>Anas clypeata</i> |
| | Wintertaling | (Common) Teal | <i>Anas crecca</i> |
| | Tafeleend | (Common) Pochard | <i>Aythya ferina</i> |
| | Kuifeend | Tufted Duck | <i>Aythya fuligula</i> |
| | Eider | (Common) Eider | <i>Somateria mollissima</i> |
| | Bruine kiekendief | Marsh Harrier | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> |
| | Buizerd | (Common) Buzzard | <i>Buteo buteo</i> |
| | Torenvalk | (Common) Kestrel | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> |
| | Fazant | (Common) Pheasant | <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> |
| | Meerkoet | (Common) Coot | <i>Fulica atra</i> |
| | Scholekster | Oystercatcher | <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> |
| | Kluut | Avocet | <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> |
| | Zilverplevier | Grey Plover | <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> |
| | Kievit | Northern Lapwing | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> |
| | Steenloper | Turnstone | <i>Arenaria interpres</i> |
| | Bonte strandloper | Dunlin | <i>Calidris alpina</i> |
| | Kemphaan | Ruff | <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> |
| | Wulp | Eurasian Curlew | <i>Numenius arquata</i> |
| | Grutto | Black-tailed Godwit | <i>Limosa limosa</i> |
| | Rosse grutto | Bar-tailed Godwit | <i>Limosa lapponica</i> |
| | Tureluur | (Common) Redshank | <i>Tringa totanus</i> |
| | Groenpootruiter | (Common) Greenshank | <i>Tringa nebularia</i> |
| | Bosruiter | Wood Sandpiper | <i>Tringa glareola</i> |
| | Oeverloper | (Common) Sandpiper | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> |
| | Kokmeeuw | Black headed Gull | <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> |
| | Stormmeeuw | (Common) Gull | <i>Larus canus</i> |
| | Zilvermeeuw | Herring Gull | <i>Larus argentatus</i> |

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| | | | |
|-----|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Kleine mantelmeeuw | Lesser Black-backed Gull | <i>Larus fuscus</i> |
| | Grote stern | Sandwich Tern | <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> |
| | Visdief | (Common) Tern | <i>Sterna hirundo</i> |
| | Houtduif | Wood Pigeon | <i>Columba palumbus</i> |
| | Holenduif | Stock Dove | <i>Columba oenas</i> |
| | Turkse tortel | Collared Dove | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> |
| | Grote bonte specht | Great Spotted Woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos major</i> |
| | Boerenwaluw | Barn Swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> |
| | Huiswaluw | House Martin | <i>Delichon urbica</i> |
| | Graspieper | Meadow Pipit | <i>Anthus pratensis</i> |
| | Witte kwikstaart | White Wagtail | <i>Motacilla alba</i> |
| | Winterkoning | Wren | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> |
| (H) | Nachtegaal | Rufous Nightingale | <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> |
| | Blauwborst | Bluethroat | <i>Luscinia svecica</i> |
| | Roodborsttapuit | (Common) Stonechat | <i>Saxicola torquata</i> |
| | Merel | Blackbird | <i>Turdus merula</i> |
| | Zwartkop | Blackcap | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> |
| | Fitis | Willow Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i> |
| | Tjiftjaf | Chiffchaff | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> |
| | Spreeuw | (Common) Starling | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> |
| | Gaai | (Eurasian) Jay | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> |
| | Ekster | Magpie | <i>Pica pica</i> |
| | Kauw | (Eurasian) Jackdaw | <i>Corvus monedula</i> |
| | Zwarte kraai | Carrion Crow | <i>Corvus corone</i> |
| | Putter | Goldfinch | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> |
| | Kneu | Linnet | <i>Carduelis cannabina</i> |
| | Rietgors | Reed Bunting | <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i> |
| | .. | .. | .. |
| | 69 | 2 | 71 |
| | Soorten waargenomen / Species observed | (H) = Alleen gehoord / Heard only | Total |

Weather: Strong winds up to 4 B from NW, Temperature up to 10°C.

Highlight of the day: Bluethroat.

Along the road between Amsterdam and Den Helder we see Greater Canada Goose, but we are moving at 100 kph. It is a short observation. Kestrel, Grey Heron, Jackdaw are seen along the way as well. Sometimes a client volunteers a wishlist of Target Species. Sometimes this is a demanding list of species that have only been seen once or twice in the season that we are going searching. Today it was a modest list of: Spoonbill, Nightingale and Bluethroat.

Reaching the Den Helder to Texel ferry just 30 minutes before it is due to sail, we already note down some species: Herring Gull, Collared Dove. The crossing takes 15 minutes and three minutes later we are at:

- De Petten, land that is too saline to be farmed or grazed, also lots of shallow water, good for ducks, terns, gulls and waders. First stop after the ferry. Avocets in tens, Redshank, Shelduck and Mallard. Several Common Tern rest here on the remains of wooden poles standing in the water. In between the calls of Black-headed Gulls we hear more Common Terns. The Sandwich's we find elsewhere later, they are absent here, at this moment. A picture book example of Grey Plover in breeding plumage. The Greenshanks next to it seem as if they have been washed at too high a temperature, bleached and shrunk. But they are beautiful birds as well.

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- **Mokbaai** A tidal creek, about 2 kilometers long and 600 meter wide at the seaward opening. When we arrive, the tide is receding quickly. A vast expanse of mud is searched by gulls and Oystercatchers. As a big group of birders is arriving, we decide to first go to the Horsmeertjes on foot and then check the mud afterwards again.
- **Horsmeertjes and beyond, the dunes.** The path leads through the dunes and in between the tow lakes. On the right hand, walking south, you have a sandy ridge, and on the left is the a swampy shore of one of the lakes. We hear Nightingale and Wren, only the latter one shows itself. The other group approaches and we move on. A Bluethroat sits on the side of the road, 100 meters ahead, close enough for "ID by telescope", but too far to be enjoyed. When we reach the spot, the bird is nowhere to be seen. Then a rainsquall approaches and we get hit a bit by the rain. It lasts just minutes, and almost immediately there is sunshine. When we leave the lakes behind us, we reach a wet valley in between the dunes. Onwards on the path is a foursome of Linnet, but we turn right. Stonechat on a bush, Reed Bunting singing, hidden somewhere but eventually giving nice views. A bird seen shortly flying away, showing the orange-brown tail of a Bluethroat. It takes a while but then we see several individuals, some really showing off with the shining blue on the... throat. Two down, one to go. And then one Spoonbill soars above us, very high, but unmistakable. Mission completed? No, there are still many hours left for the other species that we might see on the island. Walking back, we climb to an observation point and two more Spoonbills fly past. From the hill-top we look out over the two small lakes, that hold Coot, Teal, Common Pochard and Great Crested Grebe. Lesser Black-backed-, Black-headed- and Herring Gull use the fresh water here to wash and rest on. Getting back to the car we scan the mudflats again and notice Brent, Eider and a Curlew as extra's on the list. Accepting that it is favourable to mankind that we cannot personally influence the tides, we regret that it was spring-low tide at that moment. A Marsh Harrier flies over the drier part of the creek, we see quite a few today, this one was not even the closest.
- **Dijkmanshuizen.** The hide here is next to a wetland with three scenic windmills. Sometimes all water has drained and the place is void of birds, but this time it is teeming with birds. Brent, a single Spoonbill, half-hidden in between the reeds, Ruff, Wood Sandpiper and Common Sandpiper represent the waders. Teal and Wigeon are also close by. Such nice ducks when you see them in detail. The different males of Ruff have very different plumages, an enigma to the uninitiated birder, but good to tell individuals apart. Some courting is happening, but mostly it is the inter-male aggression and feeding that makes them move. A single female Pintail swims past.
- **Ottersaat** A short stop here to see if we find anything extra. Loads of the same species that we have already seen, that means we decide to go north.
- **Lancasterweg. Wagejot.** Avocets quite close to the road on the small, long island. But the vegetation is a bit too high for good views. The birds farther off show better. Here we also find Sandwich Terns, raucous calls, with a rusty tone. Some Common Terns are resting in the same flock, as well as Black-headed Gulls. Shoveler and Tufted Ducks here as well. A Barn Swallow at the Sand Martin wall in the old sea dike. On first sight the combination of location and swallow-like behavior made me to misidentify the bird.
- **De Bol.** This is the first nature reserve that was founded on the island, originally for the many Orchids that will bloom here again in a few weeks' time. The Orchids are not blooming now. The tide has receded very far, enough to show large mudflats at the seaward side. Looking towards the west is difficult because of a sudden shower of rain. So we take our lunch here. We do identify Eider and Sandwich Tern, flying past. Redshank and Oystercatcher on the mud.
- **Utopia, another area of reclaimed nature.** Old agricultural land, that was not very profitable anyhow, has been worked over by JCB's and Caterpillars. Shallow water, shell beaches, islands and grassland are being used by the birds now. We do however not enter the area but give it a short glance. Time-economics tells us that if we spend time here, we lose opportunities elsewhere. We do see some flocks of Brent, gulls and terns.

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- Reddingboothuis area (Reddingboothuis = the house/building where the lifeboat used to be stored) From the Volharding, a stretch of road on the seaward side of the dike, we observe a group of waders working their way along the shoreline on a small beach. Long bills, quite big birds, but slender, with red chests, upper parts and even the belly is red, so these are Bar-tailed Godwits. Seeing more Sandwich Tern, getting far-off views of Seal, resting on a sandbar in the distance. A Kestrel soars past and hovers some time, at twenty meters distance. The small freshwater lake past the lifeboat house is holding assorted ducks and two Little Grebe. Too far off really to be properly observed, too little time to set up the telescope. It remains an 'H' in the report as we have properly heard its whinnying call earlier today.
- Slufter. At the western end of Oorsprongweg is a small parking lot. You will see the path that leads over the row of dunes. A short steep climb leads to a viewing point that is so comfortable in times of sunny weather. In front is a shallow lake, variable in size, that many birds visit. Today's stars of the show are two dozen male Eider, all trying to impress the few females present. The throaty noise made by the males can be heard fifty meters away. 150 feet. Greenshank and Redshank show off their legs, Teal again. We see Linnet flying past, as well as Meadow Pipit. .
- Waal en Burg. Just a small detour to check on the area here. These fields have been bought from farmers. The farmbuildings have been removed and the land is now managed to become interesting for Short-eared Owl and Hen Harrier. But, unfortunately, the birds do not seem to know this yet. The few shallow ponds do not yield any new species, but close by we see several Black-tailed Godwit, some very close to the vehicle. We can now appreciate the warm coloring of the chest feathers. A long bill, orangey at the base, and the mottled topside. Continuing past den Burg we suddenly find a Spoonbill next to the road, in a ploughed field, very untypical. But very good views of the bird, with a loose crest of feathers and the enormous, yellow-tipped bill. When viewing, four cars pass. At the ferry, we are just too late, but 20 cars are in front of us as well, so we could never have boarded anyhow. The boats run on a half-hour schedule at the end of this weekend, so at 16.00 hrs. we sail.
- The route back goes via Alkmaar and Zaanstad. Along this road are acres and acres of fields used for flowerbulbs, a rainbow of colors on view.
- We reach Amsterdam at 17.30 hours.

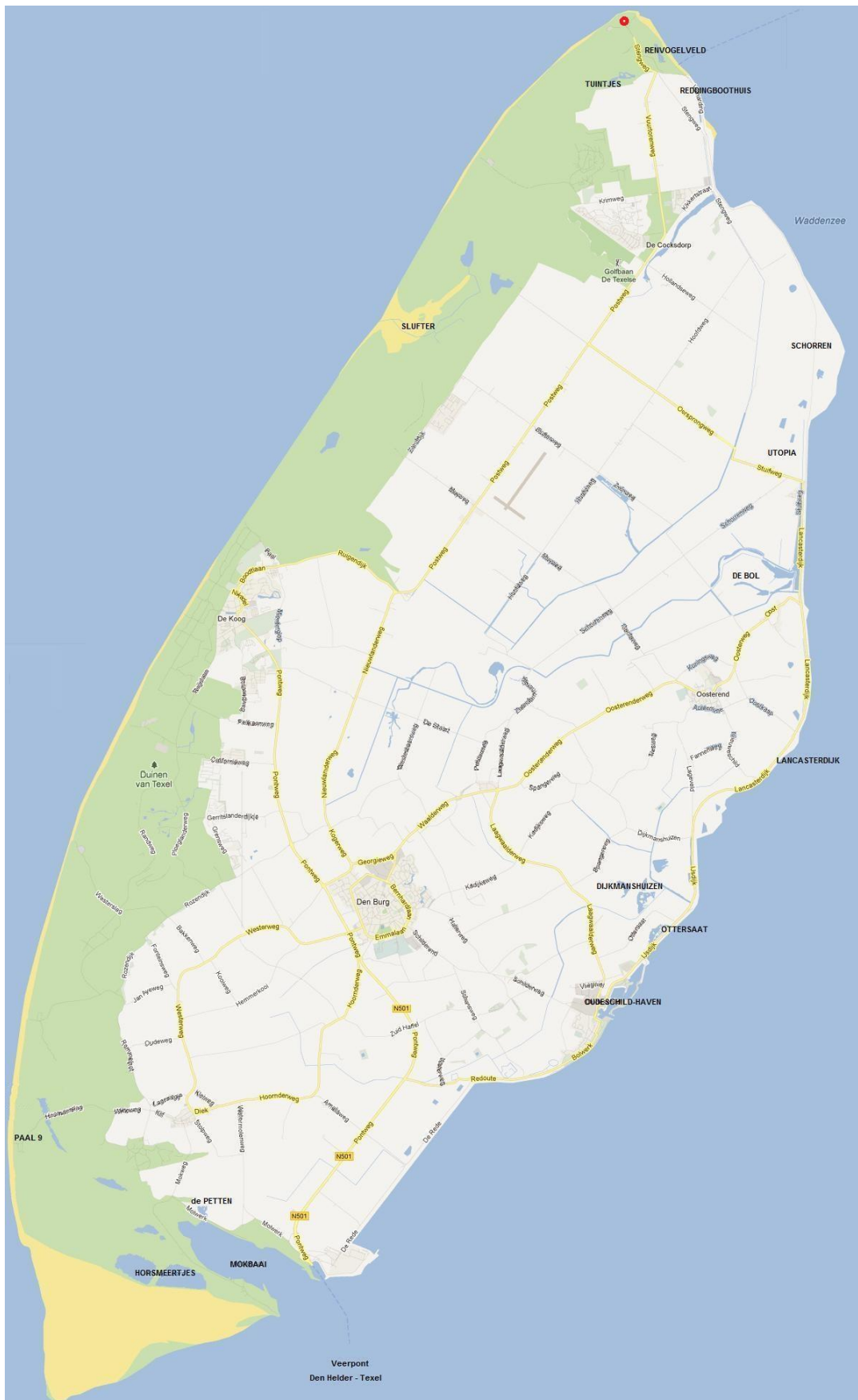


We came in from Den Oever, went to Den Helder, and on to the ferry. Upon returning we drove past Alkmaar to Heemskerk, Zaanstad and then back to Amsterdam-Noord.

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Areas on Texel



Renvogelveld (near lighthouse)
Tuintjes
Reddingboothuis (life boat)

Slufter
Schorren

Utopia

De Bol

Lancasterdijk

Dijkmanshuizen

Oudeschild-haven

Paal 9

De Petten
Mokbaai
Horsmeertjes

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