

Tour date:	November 27th, 2016
Name of area visited:	November 27 <sup>th</sup> , Oostvaardersplassen, 5600 ha wetland between Almere and Lelystad November 28 <sup>th</sup> , Texel, Southernmost of the chain of islands between Waddenzee and Northsea On the island from 08.45 until 16.00 uur.
Guide(s):	Robert de Groot

## LIST OF SPECIES SEEN

Nederlandse naam	English name	Scientific name	SUN	MON
Fuut	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	X	X
Dodaars	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	X	X
Aalscholver	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	X	X
Kleine zilverreiger	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		X
Grote zilverreiger	Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	X	X
Blauwe reiger	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	X	X
Lepelaar	(Eurasian) Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		X
Wilde zwaan	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	X	
Kleine zwaan	Tundra Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>		X
Knobbelzwaan	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	X	X
Kolgans	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	X	X
Grauwe gans	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	X	X
Brandgans	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	X	X
Rotgans	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>		X
Bergeend	(Common) Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	X	X
Nijlgans	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>	X	X
Smient	(Eurasian) Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	X	X
Wilde eend	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	X	X
Krakeend	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	X	X
Pijlstaart	(Northern) Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>		X
Slobeend	(Northern) Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	X	X
Wintertaling	(Common) Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	X	X
Tafeleend	(Common) Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	X	X
Kuifeend	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	X	X
Eider	(Common) Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>		X
Zwarte zee-eend	(Common) Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>		X
Brilduiker	(Common) Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	X	X
Nonnetje	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	X	X

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Grote zaagbek	(Common) Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	X	X
Blauwe kiekendief	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		X
Sperwer	(Eurasian) Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		X
Havik	(Northern) Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		X
Buizerd	(Common) Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	X	X
Zeearend	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	X	
Torenavalk	(Common) Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	X	X
Slechtvalk	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	X	
Fazant	(Common) Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		X
Waterhoen	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	X	X
Meerkoet	(Common) Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	X	X
Scholekster	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	X	X
Kluut	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		X
Zilverplevier	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		X
Goudplevier	(European) Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	X	X
Kievit	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	X	X
Steenloper	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>		X
Kanoet	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>		X
Drieteenstrandloper	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		X
Bonte strandloper	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>		X
Paarse strandloper	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>		X
Kemphaan	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>		X
Wulp	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		X
Rosse grutto	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>		X
Tureluur	(Common) Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		X
Watersnip	(Common) Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		X
Kokmeeuw	Black headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	X	X
Stormmeeuw	(Common) Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	X	X
Zilvermeeuw	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	X	X
Grote mantelmeeuw	Greater Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	X	X
Houtduif	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	X	X
Turkse tortel	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	X	X
IJsvogel	(Common) Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	X	X
Graspieper	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	X	X
(H) Winterkoning	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H
Heggenus	Dunnoek	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	X	X
Roodborst	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	X	X
Merel	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	X	X
Kramsvogel	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		X
Koperwiek	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>		X

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Zanglijster	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	X	X
Baardman	Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	X	
Pimpelmees	Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	X	
Koolmees	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	X	X
Spreeuw	(Common) Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	X	X
Gaai	(Eurasian) Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	X	X
Ekster	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	X	X
Kauw	(Eurasian) Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	X	X
Zwarte kraai	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	X	X
Huismus	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	X	X
Vink	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	X	X
Groenling	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		X
..	..	..	53	74
79	1	80		
Soorten waargenomen / Species observed	(H) = Alleen gehoord / Heard only	Total		

**Remarkable:** Two White-tailed Eagles.

**Weather:** Clouds and very light drizzle early in the morning, improving to sunny spells later. Wind from 1 going to 2 Beaufort from NE. Temperatures from 6 to 12°C. Not bad for November, but if you live in Singapore it is different.

Locations that were visited in chronological order. Numbers in brackets correspond to numbers on the map below. In green, a general description, in black the actual observations.

## Sunday 27th of December, Oostvaardersplassen

**Area SouthWest of Almere, not on map.** We make a first stop on the dike here. Looking at the gulls that are near a guy who does a migrating bird count. Black-headed- and Common Gull are present. On the water there are few birds, two Great Crested Grebes being additions to the list. When we continue we see the monuments marking the wrecks of a ship and a WWII-bomber. The latter is a silhouette painted on one of the windgenerators. The area is visited by geese. So we drive as slow as possible, but still we remain at a great distance. **Pampus harbour, stretch of lake that is sheltered by a long breakwater.** This we check as well. Tufted Duck, Goldeneye and Common Pochard. We get out of the car to have a better look at some geese that are at the foot of the dike. Doing that, we chase off some Meadow Pipits as well as the geese that prove to be Greylag. The pipits sit down after a few seconds, in high grass, so there are only heads that are visible. After that we drive on, kind of completing the circle towards the geese we saw earlier. We do get nearer, Greylag, with a few White-fronted Geese.

**Natte Graslanden (19):** Reclaimed agricultural land. The area is kept open using cattle. But these are just for grazing. The open, treeless, area offers opportunities for waterfowl, waders and herons. The White-tailed Eagle uses this area for hunting, as well as do Goshawk, Marsh Harrier and, in winter, Peregrine. Water level drop slightly during summer, exposing mudflats and freshwater mussels. A number of observation screens is available, one is covered with a roof. The bushes around the area are good for warblers, Cuckoo, finches. . The walk already gives us some birds, additions to the list. Barnacle Geese fly over, close enough to shoot with a Canon, the camera, surely. Starlings pass by in smaller and bigger flocks. At the first screen we see Tufted Duck, a Great Egret, a Mute Swan and Greylags. Moving on, Great Crested Grebe and Coot on the water close to the houses. At the hide, some 40 meter on, we stay for some time. Little Grebe swim close by, diving frequently. Wigeon and Teal rest on the shore opposite the hide. A Peregrine inspects the dish for later

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that afternoon. Towards the east is a wetter part, still visible from the hide. Lapwing and Cormorant are seen there.

Kwelwater (15): One of the better spots for Bearded Reedling and, during spring, Bluethroat. The fresh water lake, at one of the lowest points in the polder, dries up partly in summer. Avocets, Black-tailed Godwits, ducks make good use of it at those times. The Reedlings call a few times, but it seems to be at some distance. We do not see them. The water level has been raised, so that little mud remains uncovered. Shelduck at the northern end, which is a bit deeper. And a few Mute Swans, recognisable by their sinuous necks, while feeding. Along the dike towards the next stop, we see the pumping station, used to keep the polder dry and safe. Also at that location Tufted Duck and Common Pochard. Further on Great Crested Grebe, Coot, Mallard and Gadwall in small groups.

Parking Noord (17): Next to a breakwater and jetty at the IJsselmeer side of the road. On that side we normally see many gulls, ducks and terns. The breakwater itself is a resting area for terns and gulls. The sheltered water has some vegetation that is used by Snipe, ducks and geese. On the land side we can cast a distant view towards the nest of the White-tailed Eagle. This point is closest to that nest, if you are not the forester. The wide expanse of shallow open water at that side is normally sparsely occupied by birds. During periods of strong wind however, flocks of ducks and geese congregate here. One Eagle arrives at the nest, sitting in the top of the tree. We hear no Reedlings here. A small silhouette at 3.1 km distance. On the breakwater sits a selection of gulls: Black-headed-, Common- and Greater Black-backed. Great Egret flies past, Gadwall on the lake itself.

Knardijk with adjacent lakes: Keersluisplas and Bovenwater (9): The Keersluisplas is shallow, muddy and frequented by Great Egret, Shoveler, and Spoonbill. On the opposite, northern, side of the road lies Bovenwater, far deeper, with a lot of submerged vegetation. Different birds here, Goldeneye, Goosander, Great Crested Grebe, Tufted Duck and Pochard in winter, Black-necked Grebe, Black Terns in summer. A disappointingly short view of Bearded Reedling, one bird flying past at speed. Several Goosander in the far distance, they are swimming towards us at an angle, and we can clearly see their thin bills. Female Smew are on the lake as well, strangely without any males being present. Tufted Duck, a single Common Pochard, Cormorant and Mallard are on Bovenwater. The other side is against the light, so difficult to observe. It is very busy at the visitor's centre, near point (12). So we forfeit on that and continue to the nest point.

Krakeendhut (5) Combined with the following Poelruiterhut (6): These now are located in the same development area. This is disused agricultural land. By now, the JCB's, Caterpillars and assorted yellow machines have converted it into an area with a bit more differentiation in level. Shallow lakes, reed beds, open grassland and forest represent the landscapes found inside the park. But here one is allowed to enter, using the footpaths. This landscaping has happened during Autumn of 2014, so we do not yet know how attractive this area will be in the future. At least geese have found this place to their liking. White-fronted Goose, Greylag and a few Barnacle Geese like it here. Add Whooper Swan, Wigeon and Teal to this and the changes made by men seem to be accepted by the birds. Shoveler, Tufted Duck and Mallard use the pond as well.

Grote Praambult (8): Generally you are looking towards the west, over large expanses of grassland. Check the herds of Heck Cattle. This breed is the result of attempts by the brothers Heck, directors of the Berlin Zoo, to recreate the Aurochs, the primeval species of cattle in these countries. They look similar but are about 2 thirds of the length. Also Konik horse, reminiscent of the Tarpan, the horse of yesteryears. The third big grazer is Red Deer. Their numbers swelled to over 2000 in this area. The big grazers prevent the grassland from becoming a mix of vegetations. The stop here is again offering views of the nest of the eagles, and now we see two individuals close to it. Cattle, Konik and Red Deer in big groups. Frequent trains do pass, but they are no disturbance to any of the birds or mammals. Chaffinch are nearby, and do pass here from time to time. We reach Amsterdam without much delay.

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## Monday 28th of December, Texel

**Remarkable:** Purple Sandpiper, at dusk, on a soon to be submerged breakwater.

**Weather:** Brilliant morning, nice sunrise. Sunny spells later. Wind from 1 going to 2 Beaufort from E. Temperatures from -2 to 5°C. If you live in Singapore it is now really quite cold.

We take the 08.30 ferry to the island. The journey lasts just 15 to 20 minutes, during which we take coffee and have a few minutes outside. We do look at the sea- and landscape. Black-headed Gulls and Jackdaws follow the ferry as well, making use of the wind shifts around the ferry. Getting very close to shore again, drivers are asked to return to their vehicles; we oblige, it would be a shame to have people parked behind waiting for us.

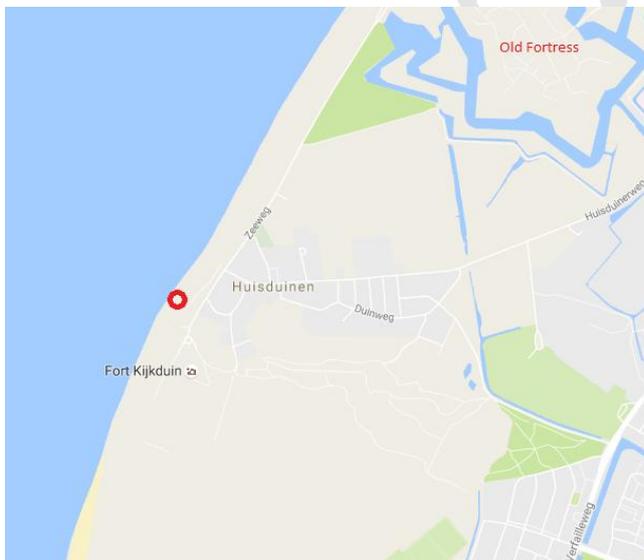
- **De Petten.** An area consisting partly of disused agricultural land and mud, too saline to produce anything. First stop after the ferry. The first Curlew, Redshank, Shelduck, Teal and Mallard. Ruddy Turnstones on the mud islands. Greylag Geese farther off, as are Carrion Crow and Jackdaw a bit further on the road. Something plastic looks like a big bird, at first but after better inspection, it is plastic indeed.
- **Mokbaai** A tidal creek, about 2 kilometers long and 600 meter wide at the seaward opening. When we arrive it is during low tide and a major part of the creek is now one big mudflat. At the shallow end are groups of Curlew, Knot, Dunlin, Avocet and Shelduck. We see Ringed Plover as well, but due to the distance we cannot tell which of the two, Lesser or Greater. Walking towards the viewpoint several Robins show. From the top of the dune we see the two lakes, fresh-water. Gadwall, Mallard and Tufted Ducks on the eastern one, Coot, some gulls on the west. We move via Den Hoorn towards the west coast of the islands through an area of dunes.
- **Paal 9.** This name: "Pole 9", derives from the kilometer markings on the beach. At the 10th pole, 9 kilometers from the first, lies a restaurant, parking and a path over the last dunes. Over the parking flies a Hen Harrier, female with white rump. Then: Coffee. We look out over the sea for a while, seeing mainly gulls. An undetermined diver flies very far off, and cannot be picked up by the client in the telescope. Several Black Scoter are equally far off. On the beach are Sanderling, and many gulls on the breakwater.
- **Waal en Burg.** Just north of Den Burg we just try this area, now set aside for nature. Several farm buildings have been removed, the water level is changed and the expectation is that, soon, Hen Harrier and Short-eared Owl will settle here. These we do not find, but a big number of Wigeon and Teal are on a pond in the middle. Nothing else, so we head north again.
- **Slufter.** An area of saltbush, mud and creeks, with sandy stretches. Kept so that it sometimes floods with seawater during storms, a very dynamic landscape. Approaching this place we first stop to check on some smaller songbirds, Greenfinch and Chaffinches, that forage in a field of stubbles. When scared, they all fly into two small trees, that suddenly become a bit of Christmas tree, with red and yellow-green balls. In front of the dunes hovers a Kestrel, too concentrated to pay any attention to us, so it can be photographed. We climb over the dunes. Here we find Pintail on the shores of the shallow lake in front of the observation site. Redshanks, Golden Plover, Shelduck, Wigeon. A very light Common Buzzard sits in a dead tree. Curlew are plentiful. Three Spoonbills fly off and land in a creek, taking themselves out of view.
- **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. The tide is still going out to sea. The mudflat close by is quite wide, a Harbour Seal swims just offshore. A Chinook-helicopter flies over and starts shooting some time later. The target is on the next island: Vlieland. It does not appear to distract birds, they keep on flying. They fly close to several trawlers, fishing for shrimp and flatfish. No loons or other new species. We have lunch near the lighthouse.

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- **Utopia.** Reclaimed for nature, these former agricultural lands are now the resting and nesting place for many birds. This is November, so no nesting birds, just some groups of geese. We do not leave the car, continuing along the dike. The stretch of canal has Coot and Tufted Ducks.
- **De Bol.** Texel's oldest protected area. Next to a photogenic old Windmill. Here one looks both ways, east is out over the Waddenzee, a tidal area, sometimes a kilometer wide stretch of mud and mussels. West is towards land and an old creek. A short stop for coffee, during which we tag Bewick's Swan. Five individuals are close by, a bigger group of swans is too far out to be sure about their identity. Cormorant, Coot, several ducks among which are many Shelduck complete the picture at the west. The mudflat is at its widest now, a combination of springtide and low tide. Waders like Curlew, Oystercatcher, Dunlin, just a few Lapwing forage here. Some mussel beds are visible, but only so, in the distance.
- **Lancasterweg. Wagejot.** A short stop to take a look at the wall, prepared for Sand Martin. The birds have gone, but the openings are clearly visible. Unfortunately we have to move on to make it to the ferry in time.
- **Ottersaat** We just drive past, not at max speed, but we see nothing really worth a stop. In the town of Oudeschild we find several Redwings close to the road, good targets to collect some photons using a CCD chip. At the ferry we only have 20 minutes left before embarking and sailing. We still can make a short stop close to the terminal, but nothing really shows here. You don't want to be left behind, within minutes we embark.
- **Huisduinen.** A parking west of Den Helder. We want to check here again, hoping for either a diver of Red-breasted Merganser. These are not present, but in the now darkening light, we find waders on a breakwater. Dunlin, Oystercatcher and a new addition to the list: Purple Sandpiper. Again, we are lucky. Half an hour later the breakwater would have been submerged. We reach Amsterdam at 17.00 hours. Just manage to evade a burning car in Coen tunnel, by going through the IJ-tunnel.



*Huisduinen, red circle is viewpoint*

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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

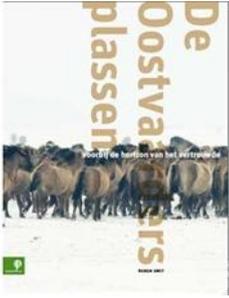
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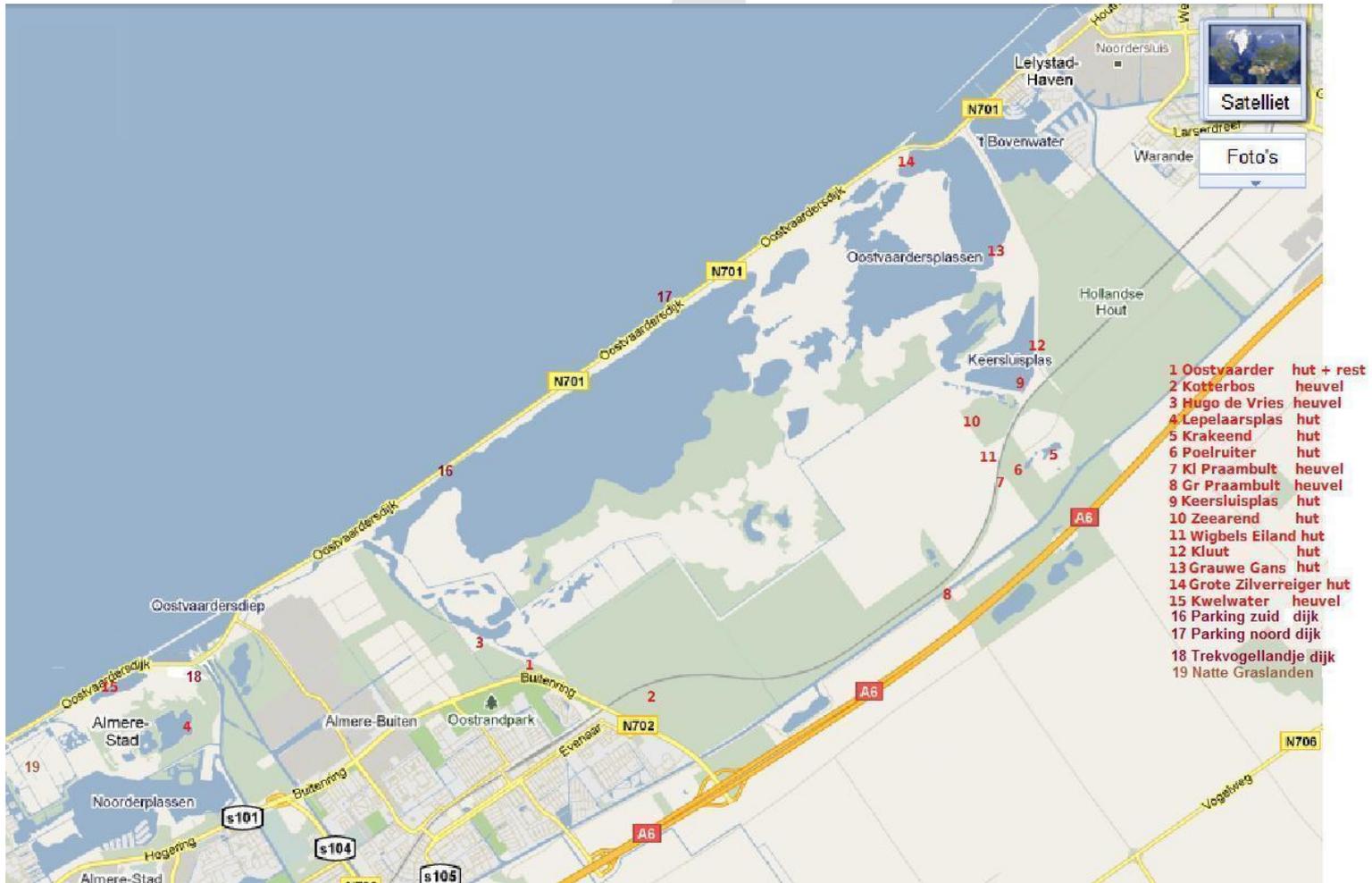
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If you want to read more or see more pictures? Books about the " Oostvaardersplassen":



Title: De Oostvaardersplassen, voorbij de grenzen van het vertrouwde. Photography: Ruben Smit.  
Text: Rinske Hillen and Jan Daan Hillen, in samenwerking met Frans Vera. ISBN 978-90-816300-1-6.

Title: Oostvaardersplassen, nieuwe natuur op oude zeebodem. Samenstelling: Bremer, P., Berg, L van den, Euverman, G., Wigbels, V., Tempel, J. Publisher : Staatsbosbeheer  
ISBN: 90-805009-2-5



Observation points in Flevoland, near the Oostvaardersplassen area.



The movie poster of "De Nieuwe Wildernis", a film by Ruben Smit. Very nice images, but a tear jerking story. Premièred in september 2013

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