

Flevo Birdwatching

Excursion date:	21st of November 2016
Area visited:	The delta of the Rhine, Meuse and Schelde rivers. Islands of Zeeland and Zuid-Holland. Areas that were visited are characterized by the presence of water, fresh and salt. A mix of open water, mud, sand and clay.
Guide:	Robert

Nederlandse naam	English name	Scientific name	Francais
Fuut	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Grèbe huppé
Dodaars	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Grèbe castagneux
Geoorde fuut	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Grèbe à cou noir
Aalscholver	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Grand Cormoran
Kleine zilverreiger	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Aigrette garzette
Grote zilverreiger	Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	Grande Aigrette
Blauwe reiger	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Héron cendré
Knobbelzwaan	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Cygne tuberculé
Toendrarietgans	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Oie des moissons de la taïga
Kolgans	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Oie rieuse
Grauwe gans	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Oie cendrée
Grote Canadese gans	Greater Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Bernache du Canada
Brandgans	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Bernache nonnette
Rotgans	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Bernache cravant
Bergeend	(Common) Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Tadorne de Belon
Nijlgans	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>	Ouette d'Égypte
Smient	(Eurasian) Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Canard siffleur
Wilde eend	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Canard colvert
Krakeend	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Canard chipeau
Slobeend	(Northern) Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Canard souchet
Wintertaling	(Common) Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Sarcelle d'hiver
Tafeleend	(Common) Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Fuligule milouin
Kuifeend	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Fuligule morillon
Brilduiker	(Common) Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Garrot à oeil d'or
Middelste zaagbek	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Harle huppé
Blauwe kiekendief	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Busard Saint-Martin
Havik	(Northern) Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Autour des palombes
Buizerd	(Common) Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Buse variable
Torenvalk	(Common) Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Faucon crécerelle
Fazant	(Common) Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Faisan de Colchide
Waterhoen	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Gallinule poule-d'eau
Meerkoet	(Common) Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Foulque macroule
Scholekster	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Huïtrier pie
Zilverplevier	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Pluvier argenté
Goudplevier	(European) Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Pluvier doré
Kievit	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Vanneau huppé
Bonte strandloper	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Bécasseau variable



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Paarse strandloper	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Bécasseau violet
Wulp	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Courlis cendré
Tureluur	(Common) Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Chevalier gambette
Watersnip	(Common) Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Bécassine des marais
Kokmeeuw	Black headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Mouette rieuse
Zilvermeeuw	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Goéland argenté
Grote mantelmeeuw	Greater Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Goéland marin
Houtduif	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Pigeon ramier
IJsvogel	(Common) Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Martin-pêcheur d'Europe
Grote bonte specht	Great spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Pic épeiche
Roodborst	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Rougegorge familier
Merel	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Merle noir
Spreeuw	(Common) Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Étourneau sansonnet
Ekster	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Pie bavarde
Kauw	(Eurasian)Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Choucas des tours
Zwarte kraai	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Corneille noire
Vink	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Pinson des arbres
Putter	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Chardonneret élégant
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Soorten waargenomen
/ Species observed

(H) = Alleen gehoord /
Heard only

Total

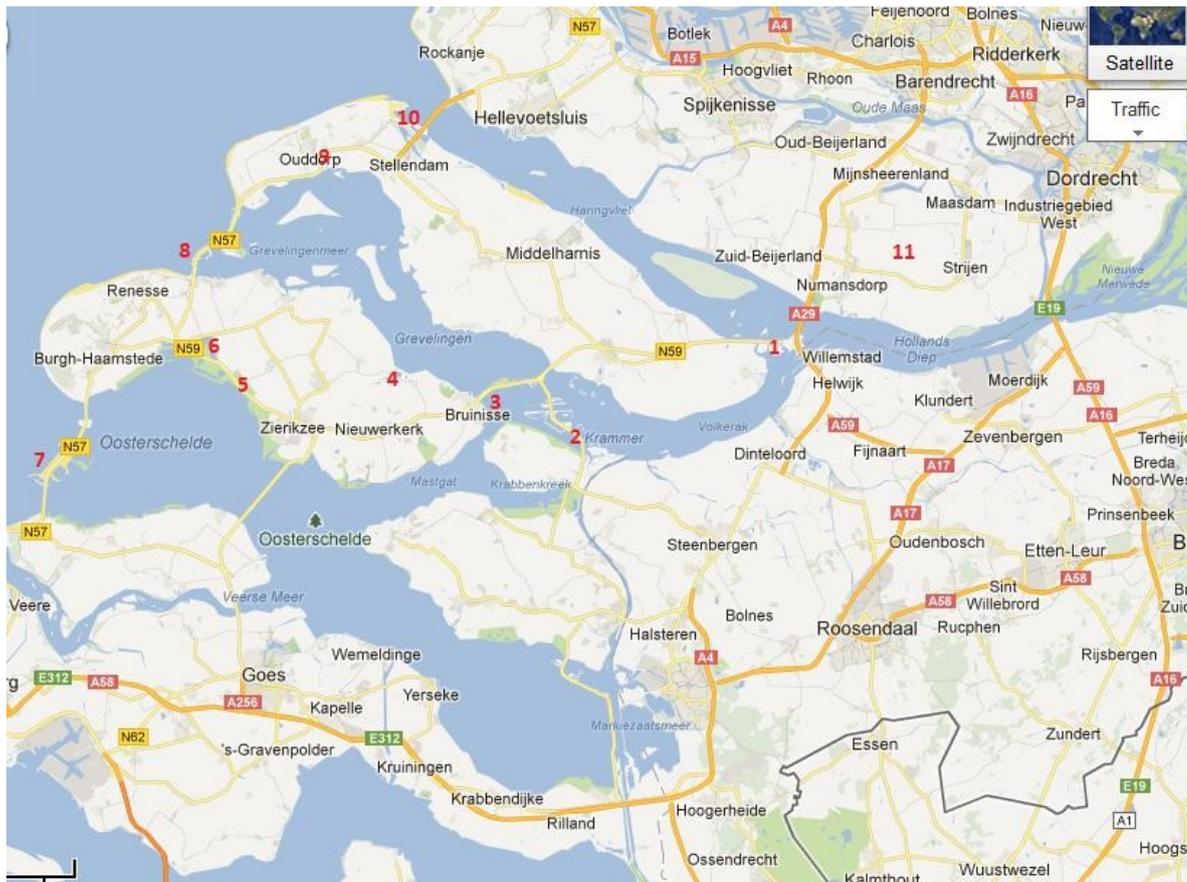
Soorten waargenomen /
Species observed

Weather: Clouded over, with still quite a bit of wind. 3 Beaufort from the south. A bit of sun sometimes. Some rain. Temperature up to 13°C.

Remarkable: Black-necked Grebe



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- 1 Hellegatsplein
- 2 Observation hide Krammer-sluizen
- 3 Grevelingendam (tidal)
- 4 Dijkwater
- 5 Plan Tureluur (Flauwers en Weevers Inlaag)
- 6 Plan Tureluur (Prunje)
- 7 Pijlerdam
- 8 Brouwersdam (tidal)
- 9 Ouddorp (Kouaennoek)
- 10 Stellendam (Buitenhaven)
- 11 Oude Land van Strijen

The North-eastern Delta. Points that were visited: 10, 9, 8, 4, 3, 1.

Using the A4 motorway we pass through two tunnels, Kethel- and Benelux. Taking the A15 to the right, we leave the above map at the upper right edge. Just north of where it says Rockanje there is a newly created area, jutting out into the sea. Due to be taken over by more industry, it is now still a largely open area. Adjacent to it lies Lake Oostvoorne. A deep creek, now blocked at both ends. Clear water and sandy shores. We see a variety of birds. A Common Buzzard flying overhead, Chaffinches in the Seabuckthorn, but also Black-necked Grebe on and in the water. Frequently diving they play a kind of hide and seek. Little- and Great Crested Grebes and many Red-breasted Mergansers must be making hell to the fish below. Groups of Starlings pass by, each time raising blood pressure, followed by a bit of disappointment, nothing really stunning. A Kingfisher flies in front of us and sits obligingly on a breakwater, long enough to focus the telescope. When it flies off, it is suddenly followed by a second one.

On the beaches to the far west of the area, we notice Greater Black-backed Gulls, Herring Gulls and Cormorants. Like during the rest of the day we see Kestrel, singles mostly, on wooden poles, lamp posts or hovering in the air. Then we return to the east, close to Rockanje we add more waterfowl to the list. Teal, Wigeon, Barnacle Goose. Three Snipe land close by, but disappear in the vegetation.

Haringvlietdam (10). A dam designed to let the water of the Rhine and Meuse river run into the sea. Visors, as on mediaeval harness head protection, can be lowered to block floods during storms. When they are raised, like today, the water pushes out. Fish are suddenly entering saltwater from out of a freshwater environment. They suffer. Terns and gulls hunt them from the air, Cormorants and Grebes go deeper. The nearby harbour and sandflats have many different visitors. About a dozen Grey Herons are standing on the rocks, next to fishing nets. In the water Cormorants. The shore close to us has a threesome of Ruddy Turnstones. Oystercatchers and Lapwings do the same, but on the opposite shore. Climbing over the dike we scan the wide sandflats. Curlew, Grey Plover, Common Redshank and Dunlin in fair numbers.

Excursion executed for Flevo Birdwatching by:

RAFIKI

BIRDWATCHING



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Koudenhoek (9). Here one can look over the dike into the Grevelingen lake. A flat island called Hompelvoet is some four hundred meter offshore. A safe refuge from land predators and yachtsmen. Too shallow water for some distance around it. Packed with birds; Curlew in flocks of several hundred, Oystercatcher, Lapwing, Shelduck. Golden Plover also, more Merganser and Grebe, a bit closer by. The area on the land side has geese, Barnacle, Greylag and a few Greater White-fronted. When we approach the Barnacles, they are very wary. Annoying to see, because it means that they still see us as predators. Lunch at Ouddorp, and then we check the area near the Ouddorp lighthouse. Great Egret and more geese.

Brouwersdam (8). One of the few spots in the Netherlands where one is allowed to drive a car on the seaward side of the dike. Not only cars, but Blocarts (landsailing, pleasure vehicles), kite surfers and pedestrians use the road, sand and sea. It is unseasonally quiet here. Not much on the water. But we see more Redshans, and Purple Sandpiper, more than one and clearly visible. There are three Grey Seals close to the dike, at the sluice. We see a few Red-breasted Merganser, Grebes and Cormorants. Carrion Crow tries to break mussels by dropping them on the road.

Dijkwater (4). This is a relatively small area. It has been formed when the dike was breached. Two deeper gullies were scoured by the tides for some time. After the dike was mended, the creek has never been filled. It is fresh to slightly brackish, reeds fringe it and birds love it. The western creek offers a load of Mallard, some Tufted Duck, fewer Common Pochards, two or three Black-necked Grebes. OK, and Coot. A female Hen Harrier flies along the dike, quartering the vegetation under it. On the other side of the road is more open water, holding two Little Egrets. A lady asks the way for the hide, she misunderstood the sign. But that we only notice when we ride past that sign, it really was the start of the path. The next creek is much shallower, Egyptian Goose in a field nearby, these birds are feral, having escaped or been set free, or being descendants of such birds. They are now very much part of the Western European avifauna.

Grevelingendam (3). At the landward end of the Grevelingen waterway. This was another estuary through which Rhine and Meuse rivers flowed towards the sea. The deeper parts did become anoxic after the dams were constructed. To increase movement of the water, two syphons have been built as culverts under the dikes, the tides run in and out now and replenish oxygen to the deeper layers. We continue along the southern end of the Grevelingendam (2). Passing here at low tide. The mudflats are wide, and birds are widely dispersed. We spot Brent, a dark goose with a white band around the neck. The mussel farms with their blue plastic floats are more commercially interesting, but less beautiful. It is now getting towards dusk, and we manage to spot some more waders on the sand: Curlew and Oystercatcher.

Krammersluizen (2). This dam was necessary to keep the tides out of the waterways to the north and east of here. On the northern side you have fresh water, the effluent of the Rhine and Meuse river. To the south it is saltwater and tidal. At the start of this lay some small ponds, that normally have quite a number of ducks. We see many Tufted Ducks and Mallard, close to the road on the northern side. A male Kestrel obligingly poses on a lantern post. We check but do not see anything new. At the very moment that we turn back, we spot some intriguing birds in another pond. A few traffic violations later we climb over the embankment and see Shoveler and Common Pochard.

Hellegatsplein (1). This is an area that has been created to connect the island of Goeree-Overflakkee to both the mainland of Brabant and the island of Voorne-Putten. Not only roads, but bridges and locks are part of the construction. If one chooses the service roads, it is possible and allowed to stop and do some birdwatching. We pass here, but on the main road, as it is getting too dark to make observations. The traffic is dense but we reach The Hague without mishaps.

