

# Flevo Birdwatching

birding tours in the Netherlands



Date: Monday, 4th of September 2023.

Area: Oostvaardersplassen, National Park "New Land", morningtour.

Guide: Pim

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Around 8.00 am I met Therese & Luc at their Van der Valk hotel in Lelystad. Today we have a morning of birdwatching in my "back garden". Our first stop was at the "Knardijk" where we walked to a blind. On the field flocks of Greenfinches and also some Goldfinches were present. From some woodland we heard lots of Common chiffchaffs (also singing), a Song thrush and a Short toed tree creeper.



Before we entered the blind we saw in a leafless tree an immature White tailed eagle in the morning sun. Also wild horses, called Konik horse, were present. From the blind we saw a Common kingfisher, a small colony of Great cormorants and some Green sandpipers. In the water we saw floating Northern shovelers and Common teal.

Next to the blind in the vegetation we discovered at least 3 Whinchats and one Stonechat. We also saw a group of Northern lapwing. On our way back to the car we saw Great spotted woodpecker, Blackcaps and Mute swan. Near the lock we saw a Rabbit and a large group of House martins. We also saw a lot of Barn swallows today. A sparrow hawk flew over.



**Greenfinch & Goldfinch – Oostvaardersplassen.**





Konikhorse – Oostvaardersplassen.



**White tailed eagle – Oostvaardersplassen.**



**Great cormorant – Oostvaardersplassen.**



**Greylag goose & Northern lapwing – Oostvaardersplassen.**



**Green sandpiper – Oostvaardersplassen.**



**Rabbit – Oostvaardersplassen.**

From the woodland we heard and saw some Long tailed tits and heard a calling Nuthatch. A Western marsh harrier flew over the dyke.

Our next stop was at the closed visitor centre. From a blind we saw a group of Eurasian spoonbill close by, lots of juveniles. On the water also a Caspian gull and some just arrived Northern pintails.





**Eurasian spoonbill – Oostvaardersplassen.**

We heard the whole morning loud calling Cetti's warblers but they are hard to see. We moved to another blind where we saw Eurasian wigeon and at least 4 Little grebes, another White tailed eagle flew over. From a spotters hill we saw a herd of Red deer and Heck cattle. Also number 3 and 4 White tailed eagle, one adult. A Kestrel was hovering in the air. Also a Western marsh harrier was hunting. In a shallow lake we saw some Ruff.



**Red deer & Heck cattle – Oostvaardersplassen.**

A next stop was very productive; we saw an immature Purple heron! Also at least 3 Garganey were present (in eclips plumage and bad light conditions). Also a Weasel crossed the road minutes before this stop. On the fence there was a family of Stonechat present. Also a Reed bunting flew over.

We drove to the south side of the area and stopped at the visitor centre. From the rooftop we saw a Red fox on the field. Also present were Green sandpiper, Common sandpiper and Common snipe!



**Red fox – Oostvaardersplassen.**



**Red fox – Oostvaardersplassen.**



**Konik horse – Oostvaardersplassen.**

In about 20 minutes we drove back to the north side of the area. We saw Common tern, Black tern and Tufted ducks.

At our last stop we saw hundreds of Northern lapwing, Pied avocets and Ruffs. We also saw White tailed eagle number 5! From the reed we heard a calling Waterrail.

It was time to drive back to the hotel. A productive morning of birdwatching with nice weather conditions; a blue sky and almost 25 degrees celcius!



## **Northern lapwing – Oostvaardersplassen.**

We managed to “catch” **the 71 (!) following species:**

Barnacle goose, Greylag goose, Egyptian goose, Mute swan, Common shelduck, Garganey, Northern shoveler, Gadwall, Mallard, Eurasian wigeon, Northern pintail, Common teal, Tufted duck, Stock dove, Wood pigeon, Waterrail (heard only), Moorhen, Coot, Little grebe, Great crested grebe, Pied avocet, Northern lapwing, Ruff, Common snipe, Green sandpiper, Common sandpiper, Common greenshank, Black headed gull, Herring gull, Lesser black backed gull, Caspian gull, Common tern, Black tern, Great cormorant, Eurasian spoonbill, Grey heron, Purple heron, Great egret, Sparrow hawk, Western marsh harrier, White tailed eagle, Common buzzard, Common kingfisher, Great spotted woodpecker, Common kestrel, Eurasian magpie, Eurasian jay, Western jackdaw, Carrion crow, Blue tit, Great tit, Long tailed tit, House martin, Barn swallow, Cetti’s warbler, Common chiffchaff, Blackcap, Wren (heard only), Nuthatch, Tree toed treecreeper, Starling, Song thrush, Common blackbird, Robin, Whinchat, Stonechat, White wagtail, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch and Reed bunting.

Also: Weasel, Red fox, Red deer, Konik horse, Heck cattle, Rabbit & Grass snake (*Natrix natrix*)!