

Flevo Birdwatching

birding tours in the Netherlands



Date: 5th of June 2021

Tour: Oostvaardersplassen

Guide: Pim

Around 1 p.m. I met Valeria & Guyon at the entrance to the Oostvaardersplassen, part of the National Park: "New Land". We made a hike to some birdhides in the area.

The first bird we saw was a nesting Common redstart, it built its nest in a small box. The air was filled with Barn swallows. The first part was through woodland. We heard singing Common chiffchaff, Willow warbler & Blackcap.

From a bridge we saw our first Cetti's warbler, named after an Italian

"Cetti's warbler is a small, brown bush-warbler which breeds in southern and central Europe, northwest Africa and the east Palearctic as far as Afghanistan and northwest Pakistan. The sexes are alike. The bird is named after the 18th century Italian zoologist, Francesco Cetti. This species is very difficult to see because of its skulking habits".

Source: Wikipedia.



Cetti's warbler – Oostvaardersplassen.

We continue and saw a gorgeous Bluethroat, this species is very common in the area, in the end of the summer it disappears to Africa to overwinter.



Bluethroat – Oostvaardersplassen.



A very strange bird we saw a couple of times was the Cuckoo.

“The common cuckoo, Cuculus canorus, (usually just called “cuckoo” in countries where it lives) is a spring migrant to Europe and northern Asia. It winters in Africa and southern Asia. It is a greyish bird with a slender body, long tail and strong legs. It looks a little bit like a small bird of prey when it flies”.

Source: Wikipedia.



Cuckoo – Oostvaardersplassen.

We also saw different species from the finch family like: Chaffinch, European goldfinch, Common linnet and European greenfinch. These seed eating birds can overwinter in the area with plenty of seeds.



From the luxurious birdhide we saw hunting Western marsh harrier, but also some species of ducks like: Northern shoveler, Common shelduck, Rudy shelduck, Tufted duck, Gadwal and Mallard.



Western marsh harrier – Oostvaardersplassen.



White wagtail – Oostvaardersplassen.



Stonechat – Oostvaardersplassen.

We were lucky to find a White tailed eagle, a young one (second year) on a pole in the water. This large bird with it's nickname "flying door" start breeding in the area about 16 years ago. Last year we

hat 15 breeding pairs in The Netherlands who raised 25 chicks, a record!



White tailed eagle – Oostvaardersplassen.



White tailed eagle & Red deer – Oostvaardersplassen.



Bluethroat – Oostvaardersplassen.

On our way back we walk the “Bluethroat boulevard”, and we saw a few of these lovely birds. We also saw two Great spotted woodpeckers and a Reed bunting.



Blackbird – Oostvaardersplassen.

Blackbird singing in the dead of night

Take these broken wings and learn to fly

All your life

You were only waiting for this moment to arise

Blackbird singing in the dead of night

Take these sunken eyes and learn to see

All your life

You were only waiting for this moment to be free

Blackbird fly, blackbird fly

Into the light of a dark black night

Blackbird fly, blackbird fly

Into the light of a dark black night

Blackbird singing in the dead of night...

Source: The Beatles.

From the visitor centre we drove in a few minutes to the Oostvaardersfield and saw a group of wild Konikhorses.





Konik – Oostvaardersplassen.



Barn swallow – Oostvaardersplassen.

In another bird hide we saw nesting Barn swallows and a small colony of Great cormorants. But the desert of this excursion were two White tailed eagles outside the hide. On the photos I saw later on that one of them is an adult!





White tailed eagle – Oostvaardersplassen.

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Photo's & text: Pim Julsing



Marsh warbler – Oostvaardersplassen.