

# Flevo Birdwatching

birding tours in the Netherlands



Morningtour "Oostvaardersplassen" – 10th of august 2017

Guide: Pim

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Around 8.00 a.m. I met John and Mary at the trainstation of Almere Oostvaarders. From here we drove in about 20 minutes to the nature reserve.

Our first stop was at a good viewing point. Here we saw our first Housemartins of today. On the field it was still misty. We were lucky with the weather, about 20 degrees celcius and no rain, and almost no wind, at all.

Our next stop was at a bird hide. Good for: Mute swan, Common greenshanks, Wood sandpiper, Black winged stilt, Blue headed wagtail and more.

We parked the car at the visitor's centre and start our morning walk to a large bird hide. During this walk we have seen many species, for example: lots of European goldfinches, Great tit, Blue tit, Northern willow tit, Spotted flycatcher, European greenfinch, Winterwren, Common redstart.

We saw two hobbies sitting in top of a tree. They have dragonflies and swallows for lunch. Later on we also saw a kestrel eating a mouse.



**Hobby – Oostvaardersplassen.**

From the bird hide we saw perhaps hundreds of red deer, wild horses and wild cattle. In a pond we saw some ducks like Eurasian wigeon, Mallard, Gadwall, Common Pochard and Common shelduck.

We also saw a couple of Black tailed Godwit, the national bird of the Netherlands. On the shore we saw a Common sandpiper and a Common ringed plover. Also Barnacle geese, Graylag geese and Northern lapwings.



Also on this place we saw a Black winged stilt, still quite rare in Western Europe.

We then walked back to the visitor's centre and saw some Common redstart and Reed bunting sitting on the ground.

We also spotted a Marsh harrier far away above the reedfields.

Lots of Sand martins and Barn swallows were in the air hunting for insects.

The Barn swallow uses the birdhides for nesting. We saw a nest with a couple of chicks in it. The ground was full of swallowshit.

#### **Black winged stilt – Oostvaardersplassen.**

After a short break at the visitor centre we continue this excursion to the dyke. Above a lake lots of Common terns and even Black terns. Also Green sandpipers flying above the water. On the other side of the road in a big lake groups of Northern shovelers.

At the dyke (near the Markermeer) we drank a cup of coffee or tea with a real Dutch "stroopwafel". Lots of gulls over here like: Herring gull, Mew gull, Lesser black backed gull and Black headed gull.

During our walk to another birdhide we saw Bearded reedling. From the hide we got a excellent view on a Eurasian spoonbill. Earlier we heard the call of a not often seen Water rail.

The not very common Cetti's warbler called from the reed. And also lots of Reed warblers, not often seen.



**Winter wren – Today in the Oostvaardersplassen.**

It was time to drive back to the station but we took the touristic route to see the majestic White stork. And we got lucky we have seen about fourthy of them!



**Eurasian spoonbill – Oostvaardersplassen.**



**John and Mary.**

I think were lucky with the weather and the amount of birdspecies we have seen today.

We have seen and heard the following **73 birdspecies** this morning:

Mute swan, Greylag goose, Canada goose, Barnacle goose, Egyptian goose, Common Shelduck, Mallard, Gadwall, Northern shoveler, Eurasian wigeon, Garganey, Common Pochard, Tufted duck, Little grebe, Great crested grebe, Great cormorant, Great egret, Grey heron, White stork, Eurasian spoonbill, Marsh harrier, Hobby, Common kestrel, Common buzzard, Water rail (just heard), Common moorhen, Eurasian coot, Black winged stilt, Common ringed plover, Northern lapwing, Wood sandpiper, Green sandpiper, Common sandpiper, Common greenshank, Black tailed godwit, Black headed gull, Mew gull, Herring gull, Lesser black backed gull, Common tern, Black tern, Common wood pigeon, Stock dove, Great spotted woodpecker, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Sand martin, Common house martin, Barn swallow, Meadow pipet, White wagtail, Blue headed wagtail, Common redstart, Song trush, Common blackbird, Common whitethroat, Cettis warbler (just heard), Reed warbler, Common chiffchaff, Winter wren, Spotted flycatcher, Great tit, Blue tit, Northern willow tit, Bearded reedling, Short toed treecreeper, Eurasian magpie, Northern jackdaw, Carrion crow, Common starling, Common Chaffinch, European goldfinch, European greenfinch and Common reed bunting.

And also Konikhorses, Red deer, Heck rund (cattle) and Roe deer.

I hope you enjoyed this morning.

Feel free to write me a testimonial!

Have a good and safe journey.

Best regards,

Pim.