

FlevoBirdwatching

birding tours in the Netherlands



Date: Sunday, April 16; 2023.

Area: Oostvaardersplassen & Lepelaarplassen.

Guide: Pim.

Around 13.00 PM I met Eleonora & Antonio at the trainstation of Almere Centrum. From here we drove in about ten minutes to the Oostvaardersplassen, part of national park "New land".

Next to the visitor centre at the south side of the area we saw on the field thousands of Barnacle geese who are leaving the area in may to nest at Nova zembla in the northpole region of Russia.

Also we saw a big herd of Red deer, Konik horses & Heck cattle. From the rooftop of the visitor centre we saw a very elegant bird: Pied avocets. We also saw Greylag geese with their chicks and the stunning Northern lapwing.

Kilometres away we saw the hudge nest of a White tailed eagle and an adult was sitting on top of it. We heard the loud song of the Cetti's warbler named after an Italian biologist. A Dunnock was showing well and we heard plenty of Chiffchaffs and Willow warblers.

We continued our tour by car and drove to the northern side of the area. During our ride we saw the work of European beavers, a tree was almost falling.





White tailed eagle – Oostvaardersplassen.

From a viewing point we saw at least one immature White tailed eagle. From a blind we saw a rare migrant bird, a Jack snipe. This is the champion in playing hide and seek.



Jack snipe (at least a part of it) – Oostvaardersplassen.



White wagtail – Oostvaardersplassen.

From a next “spotters hill” we saw a hunting Red fox and later a second one. They eat a lot of Greylag geese babies and even the meet of (dead) Red deer. We also saw a group of Northern raven.

Also some duck species were present like: Common shelduck, Northern shoveler, Common teal, Mallard, Common pochard & Gadwall.

During our walk to the next blind we saw a Great spotted woodpecker and heard many Blackcaps, next to the blind we heard a singing Nightingale!





Red fox – Oostvaardersplassen.





Chaffinch – Oostvaardersplassen.



Reed bunting – Oostvaardersplassen.



Great cormorant colony – Oostvaardersplassen.



Barn swallow – Oostvaardersplassen.



Konik horse – Oostvaardersplassen.

From this blind we also saw a Reed bunting and inside the hide we saw Barn swallows inspecting their nests. In the air we saw a flock of Sand martins. We drove to the next visitor centre for a short toilet break!

We made a short walk and saw big fishes (carps) and heard a singing Bluethroat, not showing itself. A Wren was posing very well. And a male Western marsh harrier (over 60 breeding pairs in this area) was giving a nice fly by!



Wren – Oostvaardersplassen.





Western marsh harrier – Oostvaardersplassen.



Greylag goose – Oostvaardersplassen.

Finally we took the big dyke to another small nature reserve called Lepelaarplassen where we saw a second huge nest of the White tailed eagle, an adult was sitting on it's nest.

From here we drove back to the station of Almere Centrum.





Text & photos: Pim Julsing © 2023.