

FlevoBirdwatching

birding tours in the Netherlands



Date: Monday April 17;2023.

Area: Oostvaardersplassen & Lepelaarplassen.

Guide: Pim

Around 8.30 I met Olga at the trainstation of Almere Centrum. From here we drove in about ten minutes to a nature reserve called "Lepelaarplassen". This is the best place in this area for finding a Kingfisher (Ijsvogel) and we succeed! A beautiful Kingfisher sat close to its nest.

From a red bridge we saw a hunting Great egret (Grote zilverreiger) and an overflying Grey heron (Blauwe reiger). We also saw some European goldfinches (Putter). We walked to a birdhide (or blind) to watch the birds unseen. We saw a male Bullfinch (Goudvink) and heard the distinctive call of a Northern willow tit (Matkop).



Great egret (Grote zilverreiger) – Lepelaarplassen.

We saw and heard plenty of Chiffchaffs (Tjiftjaf), Willow warblers (Fitis) & Blackcaps (Zwartkop). From the blind we saw a pair of Northern shoveler (Slobeend), Common shelduck (Bergeend) and many Tufted ducks (Kuifeend). On the first island we saw a White wagtail (Witte kwikstaart). Also Great crested grebe (Fuut), Eurasian coot (Meerkoet), Mallard (Wilde eend) and Gadwall (Krakeend) were present!



Grey heron (Blauwe reiger) – Lepelaarplassen.





Great cormorant (Aalscholver) – Lepelaarplassen.





Kingfisher (Ijsvogel) – Lepelaarplassen.

From here we drove in about ten minutes to the southside of the Oostvaardersplassen, part of national park “New land”. We saw a big herd of hundreds of Konik horses (Konikpaarden) and also a Red fox (Vos). Far away we saw Heck cattle (Heck rund) & Red deer (Edelhert). The field was packed with thousand of Barnacle geese (Brandgans). In may they leave to nest in Nova zembla.





Konik horse (Konikpaard) – Oostvaardersplassen.



Common snipe (Watersnip) – Oostvaardersplassen.

From the rooftop of the visitor centre we saw a group of very elegant Pied avocet (Kluut), Oystercatcher (Scholekster), Northern lapwing (Kievit) and Egyptian geese (Nijlgans), We saw many Graylag geese (Grauwe gans) with chicks.

Now we took the highway to the city of Lelystad and visit a colony of White storks (Ooievaars). They were nesting already. After this we drove back to the northern side of the Oostvaardersplassen.



White stork (Ooievaar) – Lelystad.

We stopped at a viewing point and from here we saw four huge immature White tailed eagles (Zeearend) on a hill. A few flew away causing lots of panic with the Barnacle geese.

After this we made a hike to different blinds. From the first blind we saw Common pochard (Tafeleend), Common teal (Wintertaling) and a colony of Great cormorant (Aalscholver). Close to the birdhide we saw Blackcaps (Zwartkop) and Reed bunting (Rietgors). Inside the birdhide we saw Barn swallow (Boerenzwaluw) and above the water Sand martins (Oeverzwaluw).



Common pochard (Tafeleend) – Oostvaardersplassen.



Barn swallow (Boerenzwaluw) – Oostvaardersplassen.



Blackcap (Zwartkop) – Oostvaardersplassen.



Reed bunting (Rietgors) – Oostvaardersplassen.



Reed bunting (Rietgors) – Oostvaardersplassen.

From a second viewing hill we saw at least 12 (!!!) White tailed eagle! We also saw Black headed gull (Kokmeeuw), Little gull (Dwergmeeuw) and Lesser black backed gull (Kleine mantelmeeuw). We saw a male Northern pintail (Pijlstaart), Great spotted woodpecker (Grote bonte specht) and the first Bluethroat (Blauwborst) of this excursion.



Green frog (Groene kikker) – Oostvaardersplassen.



Konik horse (Konikpaard) – Oostvaardersplassen.



Mute swan (Knobbelzwaan) – Oostvaardersplassen.





White tailed eagle (Zeearend) – Oostvaardersplassen.



White tailed eagle (Zeearend) & Northern raven (Raaf) – Oostvaardersplassen.



Red deer (Edelhert) – Oostvaardersplassen.



Wren (Winterkoning) – Oostvaardersplassen.

From the next blind we saw a really difficult bird to find; a Jack snipe (Bokje). Also a Wren (Winterkoning) was nesting inside the birdhide. We heard the loud song of the Cetti's warbler (Cetti's zanger) and close to the car we saw a Sedge warbler (Rietzanger).

Just a few hundred metres further we made a short walk and discovered many birdspecies like another well showing Bluethroat (Blauwborst), Stonechat (Roodborsttapuit), Common whitethroat (Grasmus), Reed bunting (Rietzanger) and Common linnet (Kneu).

High in the air we saw a few Northern raven (Raaf), an adult White tailed eagle (Zeearend) and a Common buzzard (Buizerd). Also another White stork (Ooievaar) flew over.



Northern raven (Raaf) – Oostvaardersplassen.



White tailed eagle (Zeearend) & Common buzzard (Buizerd) – Oostvaardersplassen.



White stork & A380 Emirates Airlines – Oostvaardersplassen.



Stonechat (Roodborsttapuit) – Oostvaardersplassen.



Northern raven (Raaf) – Oostvaardersplassen.



Jack snipe (Bokje) – Oostvaardersplassen.

We now drove to the second visitor centre which was closed and made a short hike here. We saw big fishes (Carp / Karpers) the reason the White tailed eagle loves the Oostvaardersplassen.

We also heard the song of a Nightingale (Nachtegaal) and saw a male Common redstart (Gekraagde roodstaart).

We also saw a group of just arrived House martins (Huiszwaluw) and Eurasian jay (Gaai). We heard the call of Greenfinches (Groenling).



Carp (Karper) – Oostvaardersplassen.

We drove to the big dyke, you saw easily the water level difference between the lake (Markermeer) and the Oostvaardersplassen, about 5 meter!

We made a walk to another birdhide and saw a few more Bluethroats (Blauwborst). We heard the strange song of a Savi's warbler (Snor).



Blue tit (Pimpelmees) – Oostvaardersplassen.





Western marsh harrier (Bruine kiekendief – Oostvaardersplassen).



Muskrat (Muskusrat) – Oostvaardersplassen.

We continued driving on the dyke and saw another 3 White tailed eagles, pretty close.





White tailed eagle (Zeearend) – Oostvaardersplassen.



White tailed eagle (Zeearend) – Lepelaarplassen.

We made another stop at the Lepelaarplassen where we saw a White tailed eagle on it's nest far away feeding its chick. From here we drove to the last stop where we saw a stunning bird: Northern wheatear (Tapuit), Rabbit (Konijn) and a pair of Red crested pochards (Krooneend). We also saw a pair of the rare Black winged stilt (Steltkluut).

Birds not mentioned already we saw/heard: Tree sparrow (Ringmus), White fronted goose (Kolgans), Tufted duck (Kuifeend), Wood pigeon (Houtduif) Stock dove (Holenduif), Great crested grebe (Fuut), Curlew (Wulp), Common redshank (Tureluur), Mew gull (Stormmeeuw), Herring gull (Zilvermeeuw), Kestrel (Torenvalk), Western jackdaw (Kauw), Carrion crow (Zwarte kraai), Great tit (Koolmees), Long tailed tit (Staartmees), Grasshopper warbler (Sprinkhaanzanger), Short toed treecreeper (Boomkruiper), Blackbird (Merel), Song thrush (Zanglijster), Dunnock (Heggenmus) and Chaffinch (Vink).

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