

Flevo Birdwatching

birding tours in the Netherlands



Date: 19th of April 2019

Excursion: Oostvaardersplassen morning tour

Guide: Pim

I met Donna at the trainstation of Almere Centrum. From here we took the “touristic route” to the nature reserve Oostvaardersplassen. We stopped at some flowerfields (tulips) and saw our first Barn swallows.



Our first stop at the nature reserve was at a large viewing point. We saw thousands of Barnacle geese just waiting to depart to their breeding grounds in Northern Russia. Also a Common buzzard, Mute swan and a big group of Red deer.

Our next stop was at a bird hide. We saw a group of Tufted duck, Green sandpiper and Gadwalls.



We stopped at the field on saw a large group of wild horses called “Konikhorse” which means small horse in Polish. We saw a gorgeous male Stonechat!



Stonechat – Oostvaardersplassen.

Our next stop was at the visitor centre, here we saw a great Bluethroat, what an amazing creature!

A male Common redstart was singing non-stop.





Bluethroat – Oostvaardersplassen.





Common redstart – Oostvaardersplassen.

From the visitor centre we made a short hike and saw many birds like: Great tit, Blue tit, Common chiffchaff, Willow warbler, Common Chaffinch, Northern willow tit, European goldfinch, European greenfinch, Winter wren and more.

Later we stopped next to the dyke, time for a cup of coffee and really Dutch cookies. On the lake we saw Common tern, Black tern and Little gull.

On the other side we saw Sedge warbler, Bearded (tit) reedling, Northern shovelers (>1000) and high up in the air an subadult White tailed eagle!!

Today we heard many times the loud song of the Cetti's warbler, but this bird is hard to find. On the dyke hundreds of Meadow pipets on migration.



White wagtail – Oostvaardersplassen.



Bearded tit – Oostvaardersplassen.

Our next stop was at the large dyke, we saw many Blue headed wagtails but also one rare Yellow wagtail. Also the wonderful Great crested grebe.



Great crested grebe – Oostvaardersplassen.



Blue headed wagtail – Oostvaardersplassen.



Meadow pipet – Oostvaardersplassen.

We made a short walk through a reedfield. Many Sedge warblers but we also heard the typical song of a Savi's warbler. On this short walk also Reed bunting, Blue tit and Cetti's warbler.





Sedge warbler – Oostvaardersplassen.

From here we drove for about 20 minutes to the southern border of the area to visit a second visitor centre. Again thousands of Barnacle geese but also many Black-headed gull.

On some islands we saw a colony of breeding Pied avocets, also Eurasian oystercatcher, White-fronted geese, Eurasian wigeons and far away a hunting Western marsh harrier.



Blue tit – Oostvaardersplassen.



Northern lapwing – Oostvaardersplassen.



Greylag goose – Oostvaardersplassen.



Greylag goose and Pied avocet – Oostvaardersplassen.

We were extremely lucky with the weather, almost 24 degrees celcius.

On this long morning of birdwatching we managed to “catch” the following **67 bird species**:

Mute swan, Greylag goose, Barnacle goose, Egyptian goose, White fronted goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Northern shoveler, Eurasian wigeon, Tufted duck, Common shelduck, Great crested grebe, Eurasian spoonbill, Grey heron, Great egret, Great cormorant, Common buzzard, Western marsh harrier, White tailed eagle, Eurasian coot, Waterrail, Eurasian oystercatcher, Pied avocet, Northern lapwing, Green sandpiper, Black headed gull, Little gull, Herring gull, Lesser black backed gull, Greater black backed gull, Common tern, Black tern, Feral pigeon, Wood pigeon, Eurasian magpie, Northern jackdaw, Carrion crow, Northern willow tit, Blue tit, Great tit, Bearded tit, Barn swallow, House martin, Cetti's warbler, Willow warbler, Common chiffchaff, Sedge warbler, Grasshopper warbler, Savi's warbler, Eurasian blackcap, Winter wren, Short toed tree creeper, Common starling, Common blackbird, Red robin, Bluethroat, Common redstart, Stonechat, House sparrow, Blue headed wagtail, White wagtail, Yellow wagtail, Meadow pipit, Common chaffinch, European greenfinch, European goldfinch and Common reed bunting.

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