

# Flevo Birdwatching

birding tours in the Netherlands



Date: 23th of may 2022

Excursion: Oostvaardersplassen / National park "New land".

Guide: Pim

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Around 8 am I met Judy & Vince at the train station of Almere Centrum. We drove to the northern part of the nature reserve. At the dyke we made a very successful stop. At the former lake we saw five (!) White tailed eagles. This gigantic bird (wingspan of 2.30 metres) start breeding in the reserve about seventeen years ago. His nickname is "flying door"!



**White tailed eagle – Oostvaardersplassen.**

In the reedfield we heard the characteristic song of the Savi's warbler, we also saw it through the spotting scope. Also we heard the explosive song of the Cetti's warbler, this bird lives in the undergrowth and is hard to see. We saw a few Sedge warblers and a Reed warbler.



**White tailed eagle – Oostvaardersplassen.**





**White tailed eagle – Oostvaardersplassen.**

We continued our drive to the north of the reserve and stopped at a parking place. We made a walk to a bird hide. Close to the dyke we saw Greylag geese with chicks. On the lake some Great crested grebes, hunting Common terns and Lesser black backed gulls.

On the water a pair of Common shelduck, Gadwall and Mallard. Also a White wagtail (*Motacilla alba*).



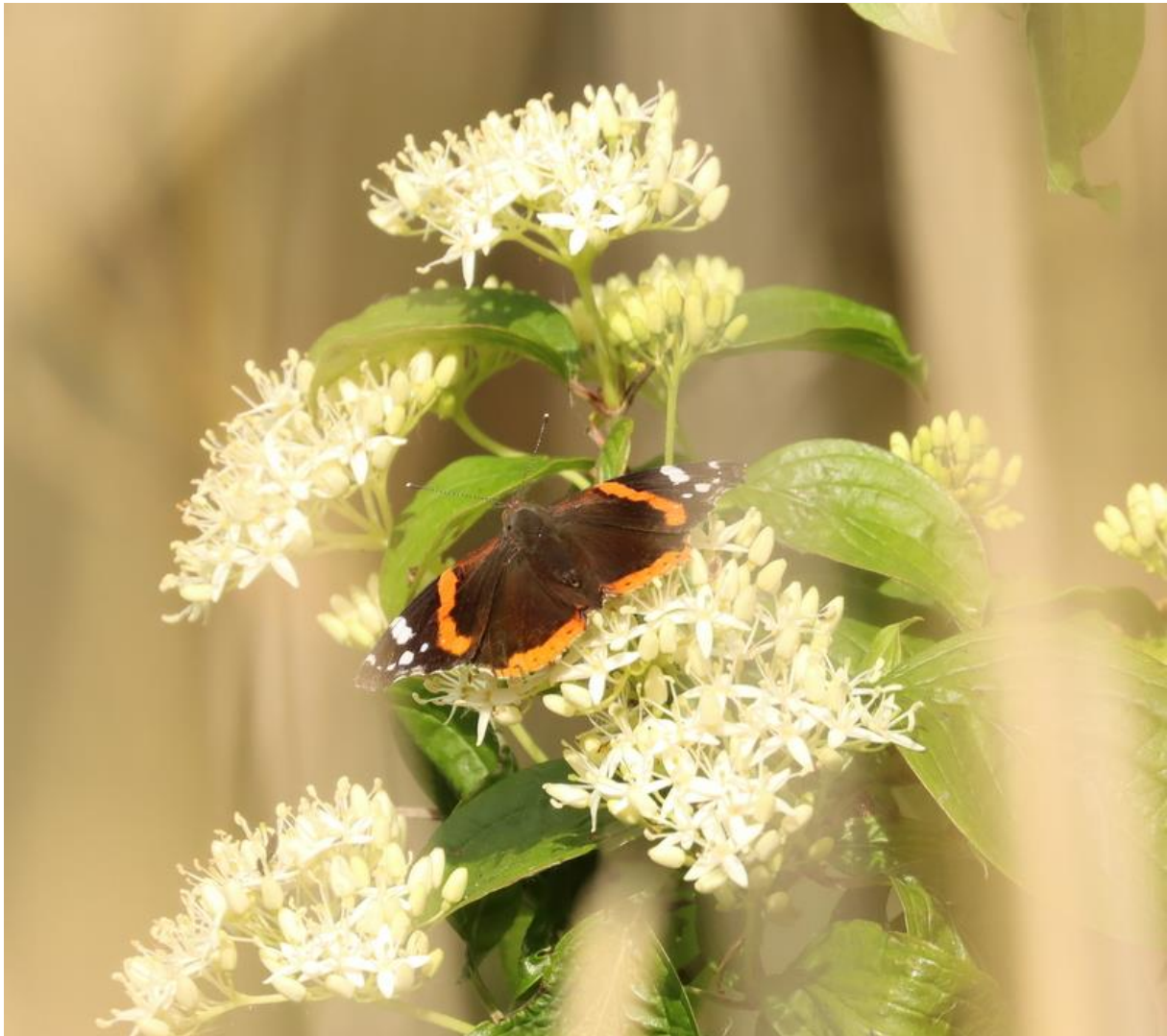
**Greylag goose – Oostvaardersplassen.**



Reed bunting – Oostvaardersplassen.

During our walk we saw many birdspecies. We saw and heard Garden warbler, Willow warbler and Chiffchaff. We saw a male Reed bunting and Barn swallows flew over. Suddenly two Eurasian spoonbills flew over. We heard the Bluethroat but could not find the bird (later we did!)

From the bird hide we saw a Common pochard and a male Western marsh harrier, it hunts very low above the reedfield. We heard the song of the Cuckoo and find it later on.



### **Red admiral – Oostvaardersplassen.**

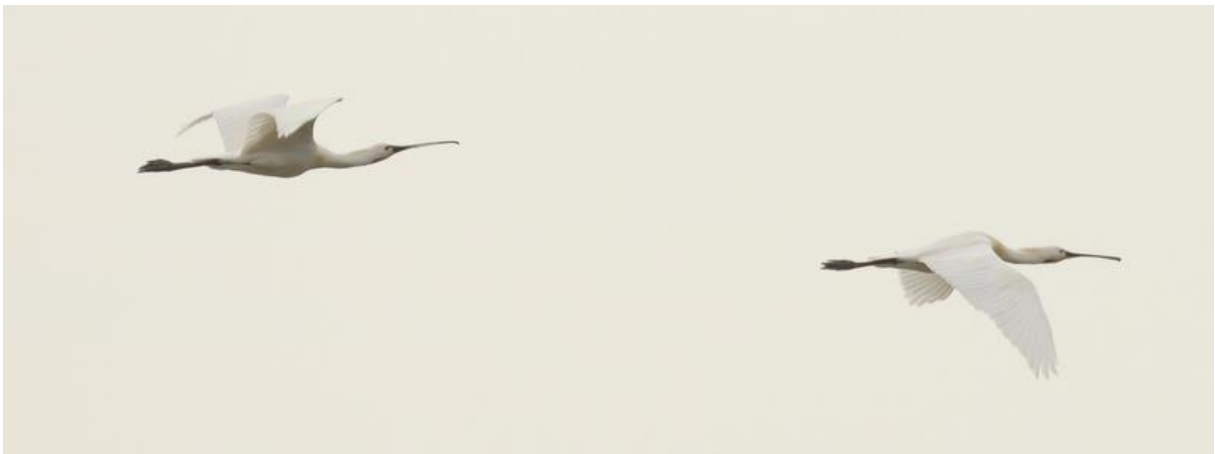
(Winter) wren was common everywhere in the reserve. We saw Great egrets and Grey herons. From here we drove to the visitor centre. We saw a beautiful bird, a Common redstart. From the bird hide we saw Tufted duck, Mute swan and inside the hide Barn swallows made it's nests.

On our walk we saw Gold finches, Green finches and Chaffinches. The woodland was full of Blackcaps. From another birdhide we saw a Bluethroat a few seconds.

On our walk we also heard and saw Marsh warblers. In a tree we saw a few Common buzzards. A Great spotted woodpecker flew over and later we saw a second one. On a field we saw some gorgeous Stonechats and Common whitethroats.



**Dunnock – Oostvaardersplassen.**



**Spoonbill – Oostvaardersplassen.**



**Tufted duck – Oostvaardersplassen.**



**Common redstart – Oostvaardersplassen.**

From the car we saw a group of wild horses on the field called “Koniks”. Also some Roe deer were present. Greenfinches sat on the ground.

Our next stop was at a spotters hill where we saw another six (!) White tailed eagles and some Western marsh harriers. In a pool we saw many Northern shovelers. Also we saw Pied avocet, Black tailed godwit (national bird of the Netherlands) and a Red fox was hunting.







Great cormorant – Oostvaardersplassen.



**Barn swallow – Oostvaardersplassen.**





**Bluethroat – Oostvaardersplassen.**

We heard the short song of a Short toed treecreeper and on our next stop we saw about 500 Red deer and some Spoonbills.

It was time for our last stop at the southern entrance of the area. From the visitor centre we saw many breeding Pied avocets. We also find some Barnacle geese and Canadian geese. Next to the water there was a Common sandpiper.





**Common tern – Oostvaardersplassen.**



**Heck cattle – Oostvaardersplassen.**





**Pied avocet – Oostvaardersplassen.**



**White wagtail – Oostvaardersplassen.**



**Pied avocet – Oostvaardersplassen.**



**Golffinch & Common linnet – Oostvaardersplassen.**



**Common linnet – Oostvaardersplassen.**



**Goldfinch – Oostvaardersplassen.**

We managed to catch the following species:

Barnacle goose, Greylag goose, Egyptian goose, Canada goose, Mute swan, Common shelduck, Rudy shelduck, Northern shoveler, Gadwall, Mallard, Common teal, Common pochard, Tufted duck, Common cuckoo, Wood pigeon, Collared dove, Common coot, Great crested grebe, Eurasian oystercatcher, Pied avocet, Northern lapwing, Black tailed godwit, Common sandpiper, Black headed gull, Lesser black backed gull, Common tern, White stork, Great cormorant, Eurasian spoonbill, Grey heron, Great egret, Western marsh harrier, Common buzzard, White tailed eagle, Great spotted woodpecker, Eurasian jay, Eurasian magpie, Western jackdaw, Carrion crow, Great tit, Blue tit, Barn swallow, House martin, Cetti's warbler, Willow warbler, Common chiffchaff, Reed warbler, Sedge warbler, Marsh warbler, Grasshopper warbler (heard only), Savi's warbler, Eurasian blackcap, Garden warbler, Common whitethroat, Wren, Short toed treecreeper (heard only), Common starling, Common blackbird, Song thrush, Bluethroat, Nightingale, Common redstart, Stonechat, House sparrow, Dunnock, White wagtail, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Common linnet, Goldfinch and Reed bunting (71 birdspecies). Also Red fox, Roe deer, Red deer, Konikhorse & Heck cattle.

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