

Flevo Birdwatching

birding tours in the Netherlands



Date: 26th of September 2018

Excursion: Oostvaardersplassen – morning tour.

Guide: Pim

Around 7 am I met Michael from California at the trainstation of Almere Centrum. It was still a bit dark outside and we drove along the dyke to the Oostvaardersplassen nature reserve. We stopped at a parking place and made a short hike. We heard the explosive song of a Cetti's warbler. We saw a group of Bearded reedlings, a beautiful bird.



Bearded reedling – Oostvaardersplassen (from archive – 24th of september 2018)

We heard the call of the Common kingfisher but did not find the bird. A Great spotted woodpecker was flying over. Lots of Chiffchaffs almost everywhere!

Our second stop was at the birding hotspot of this moment. Due to the low water many shorebirds are present. We saw Ruffs, Black tailed godwit (the national bird of the Netherlands!), Dunlins, almost 400 Pied avocet, Northern lapwing and Green sandpiper.

Also hundreds, maybe thousands of ducks, mostly Common teal and Northern shoveler. Next to the bird hide we saw three Common snipe posing well. Normally this bird can be hard to find, it likes to play hide and seek.



Common snipe – Oostvaardersplassen.



It was on our banknote of 100 guilders before the euro came!



Green sandpiper – Oostvaardersplassen.

On the path to this excellent bird hide we saw and heard different Blackbirds, Songtrushes, Winter wrens, Eurasian jays and some Cetti's warblers.

It was warming up a bit and the Barn swallows became active.

We stopped shortly at the dyke and saw a flock of Common ringed plovers. A Common buzzard was sitting in the top of a tree.

Our next stop we saw a big group of wild horses, called Konik horse. Their from Poland and live in the reserve yearround.



Pied avocet – Oostvaardersplassen.



In the vegetation European greenfinches, Common chaffinches and Reed buntings. Big groups of Greylag geese were coming in and also Barnacle geese.

From the bird hide we saw Eurasian spoonbill and lots of Great egret. Eurasian spoonbil will soon leave for their long trip to the westcoast of Africa, mainly Mauretanië.

Common pochard and Eurasian wigeon were also on the pont.



Greylag goose, Herring gull and Eurasian spoonbill (juvenile) – Oostvaardersplassen.



Eurasian spoonbill – Oostvaardersplassen.

On the way back from this bird hide we saw Northern willow tit and a group of migrating Sky larks flew over. Also lots of Meadow pipets going south.

Some reed buntings were showing well.

We went to the visitor centre and after that we visit two bird hide close to each other. From the first hide we saw Northern pintail, Common sandpiper and little grebe.

The second bird was good for Eurasian wigeon, Great crested grebe and many Coots.



Northern lapwing, Great egret, Great cormorant & Eurasian spoonbill – Oostvaardersplassen.



Northern lapwing – Oostvaardersplassen.



Wild horse called “Konik horse” – Oostvaardersplassen.



From here we drove to the south side of the nature reserve. We stopped at the visitor centre and saw a Hobby flying over. A Perigrine falcon was eating from it's prey. We saw many Common kestrels today and also a Eurasian sparrowhawk.

In a group of a few hundred Barnacle geese we found just one Snow goose. High in the air we find a majestic adult White tailed eagle also named by it's nickname: Flying door.

Above the reedfields we found 3 Western marsh harriers hunting.





Barnacle goose & Snow goose – Oostvaardersplassen.

From here we drove back to the station. I hope you liked your morning of Birdwatching.

Have a good and safe trip home.

Kind regards,

Pim

Today we managed to “catch” the following **71 birdspecies**:

Mute swan, Greylag goose, Barnacle goose, Snow goose, Egyptian goose, Common shelduck, Northern shoveler, Gadwall, Mallard, Eurasian wigeon, Northern pintail, Common teal, Common pochard, Tufted duck, Little grebe, Great crested grebe, Eurasian spoonbill, Great egret, Grey heron, Great cormorant, Eurasian sparrowhawk, Western marsh harrier, Common buzzard, White tailed eagle, Common coot, Pied avocet, Northern lapwing, Common ringed plover, Black tailed godwit, Ruff, Dunlin, Common snipe, Common sandpiper, Green sandpiper, Black headed gull, Herring gull, Lesser black backed gull, Great black backed gull, Mew gull, Rock pigeon (domestica), Wood pigeon, Stock dove, Common kingfisher (just heard), Great spotted woodpecker, Common kestrel, Hobby, Eurasian jay, Eurasian magpie, Northern jackdaw, Carrion crow, Northern willow tit, Blue tit, Great tit, Bearded reedling, Sky lark, Barn swallow, Cetti’s warbler (just heard), Common chiffchaff, Eurasian blackcap (just heard), Winter wren (just heard), Common starling, Common blackbird, Song thrush, Robin, White wagtail, Meadow pipet, Common chaffinch, European greenfinch, Common linet, Common goldfinch and Reed bunting.