

# Flevo Birdwatching

birding tours in the Netherlands



Date: May 29 (2018)

Excursion: Oostvaardersplassen nature reserve

Guide: Pim

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Around 1.00 p.m. I met Clair at the small trainstation of Almere Oostvaarders. From here we drove to the visitor centre of the Oostvaardersplassen nature reserve. We saw nesting Pied avocets, some Little ringed plovers and a Common sandpiper.

The weather forecast was terrible but suddenly it stopped raining (for the rest of the excursion!). On the field Lesser black backed gull were eating the chicks of the Greylag geese. We also saw Eurasian oystercatcher, Gadwall, Common shelduck and Great tit near the visitor centre.

After this short stop we drove to the other side of the nature reserve and first stopped at a viewing point. We heard the beautiful song of the Common nightingale. Here we saw Eurasian spoonbill, Great egret, Common whitethroat and European goldfinch.

At our next stop we made a hike of about 90 minutes. This field was full of birds like Common reed bunting, lots of Common whitethroats, Gorgeous stonechat and also Common linnet. From the birdhide we saw lots of swallows. We saw Barn swallow, Sand martin and House martin. On the lake Northern shoveler, Common pochard and Tufted duck.

Next to the hut there was a Lesser whitethroat singing, also lots of singing Willow warblers, Black caps and Common chiffshaffs.



**Great crested grebe – Oostvaardersplassen.**

From a viewing point we saw a Red fox near his underground nest. Also lots of Red deer, Konik horses and Heck cattle.



**Red fox – Oostvaardersplassen.**

On the ground there was sitting a Northern goshawk and also Common buzzard. We saw lots of Western marsh harriers. In the water we saw Eurasian wigeon, Northern pintail and Common teal. Warders are a bit late this year but we managed to find: Common greenshank, Common redshank and Spotted redshank!



From a distance of almost 3 kilometres we saw the big nest of the White tailed eagle, one adult bird was sitting next to it. In Dutch we call it “flying door” because from wingtip to wingtip this bird is 2.20 metres wide!

We continued our hike and saw Winter wren, Stonechat and even a Little grebe.



**Stonechat – Oostvaardersplassen.**

Also during our hike we heard Sedge warbler and Reed warbler. Some Common reed bunting showed very well!



**Stonechat (male) – Oostvaardersplassen.**

We were lucky to see one rare Black winged stilt, recently it nests in the area.

After the hike we stopped at the other visitor centre. The weather was grey and the wind was increasing but we still find some beautiful Blue throats (the photo is taken this morning).



**Blue throat – Oostvaardersplassen.**



We also saw a female common Redstart and later a male. A Great spotted woodpecker was sitting in a tree. We saw also Great tit, Blue tit, Common chaffinch and White wagtail.

We deserved a cup of coffee and so we did. Also with a dutch cookie called Stroopwafel. It was time to drive back to the station. From the car we saw Eurasian jay and on the dyke also Common kestrel.

I hope you enjoyed your afternoon of birding.

Best regards,

Pim

We managed to hear and see the following **72 birdspecies**:

Mute swan, Greylag goose, Barnacle goose, Egyptian goose, Common shelduck, Mallard, Gadwall, Northern pintail, Northern shoveler, Eurasian wigeon, Common teal, Common pochard, Tufted duck, Little grebe, Great crested grebe, Great cormorant, Great egret, Eurasian spoonbill, Common buzzard, Common kestrel, Northern goshawk, Western marsh harrier, White tailed eagle, Eurasian coot, Eurasian oystercatcher, Pied avocet, Black winged stilt, Little ringed plover, Northern lapwing, Common sandpiper, Common greenshank, Common redshank, Spotted redshank, Herring gull, Black headed gull, Lesser black backed gull, Wood pigeon, Common cuckoo, Great spotted woodpecker, Sand martin, House martin, Barn swallow, White wagtail, Dunnock, Common nightingale, Blue throat, Common redstart, Stonechat, Common blackbird, Song thrush, Garden warbler, Common blackcap, Common whitethroat, Lesser whitethroat, Sedge warbler, Reed warbler, Willow warbler, Common chiffchaff, Winter wren, Great tit, Blue tit, Eurasian magpie, Eurasian jay, Common starling, Western jackdaw, Carrion crow, House sparrow, Common chaffinch, Common linnet, European greenfinch, European goldfinch and Common reed bunting.

Also Red deer, Konik horse, Heck cattle and Red fox.

