

# Flevo Birdwatching

birding tours in the Netherlands



Date: Saturday, September 2 – 2023.

Area: “Bird island” of Texel

Guide: Pim

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Around 8.00 am I met Therese & Luc at the tiny trainstation of Den Helder Zuid. From here we drove in about ten minutes to the ferry which took us in about 20 minutes to Texel, often called the “Bird island”. From the boat birdwatching already started. We saw some Common terns and even one Little tern. Also from the boat we saw plenty of Black headed gull, Lesser black backed gull and Herring gull. On the blocks near the water we saw Rudy turnstones, a Curlew and Eurasian oystercatchers. From the modern boat we saw flocks of hundreds of Golden plovers flying to Texel.



Our first stop was at a birdwatching platform that looks like an UFO, there was even an Swarovski spotting scope present. The short walk to the platform brought us Meadow pipets, White and Yellow wagtails. From the viewing point we saw lots of shorebirds, for example: Sanderling, Bar tailed godwit, Dunlin, Red knot, Common ringed plovers (almost 800-1000 birds!), Curlew, Rudy turnstone and Common sandpiper. In the water the first Eider ducks of the day, also Common shelducks, Gadwall, Mallard and on the sandbank Sandwich terns. A small flock of Greenfinches gave a nice fly by! We also saw a Sparrowhawk sitting on the beach and a first Common buzzard of the day was “mobbed” by a Carrion crow.

On the way back to the car we saw our first Great egret and Eurasian spoonbil(s) of the day. A hare was sitting on the farmland. European goldfinches flew over. From a distance we saw our first Common kestrel of the day.

After a few hundred metres in the car we stopped suddenly, on the field sat a group of about 450 Golden plovers, much more to follow today (we saw a few thousand of this stunning birds!).





Oudeschild – Texel.



**Common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) & Carrion crow – Texel.**





Golden plover – Texel.



Our next stop was past the village of Oudeschild. We stopped at a nature reserve called "Ottersaat". Here we saw Common snipe, Ruff, Green sandpiper, Yellow wagtail, Common redshank, Common greenshank, Northern lapwing and Northern shoveler. On a pole we discovered the first Northern wheatear of the day.

From a blind we saw a beautiful Curlew sandpiper, Common teals and suddenly seven Common buzzards flew over. We saw hunting Barn swallows but later on our tour also Sand martin and House martin.



From the next stop we saw again a large group of Golden plovers, also our first Eurasian wigeon. Some Common linnets flew over.



**Gatekeeper / Hedge brown – Texel.**



**Golden plover – Texel.**



**Waddenzee – Texel.**



We ate our lunch next to the Waddensea. A big group of Eider ducks were present and also a Northern wheatear and some Rudy turnstones.



**Common eider – Texel.**





We drove to the most northern part of Texel, next to the lighthouse. Here we found a local rarity; Red backed shrike. The bird was showing well!!!





**Red backed shrike – Texel.**



**Red backed shrike – Texel.**



Far away we saw on a sandbank over a hundred (Common) seals.

Now it was time to visit a beautiful area on Texel, the Slufter. Here we saw at least five hunting Western marsh harriers. Also some Little egrets were present and again lots of Golden plovers, but also a Whimbrel.







**Little egret – Texel.**

Time for our last stop near the ferry, in the “Mokbaai” ten of thousand shorebirds, also some Eurasian Spoonbils. On a lake nearby we saw Common pochard, Little grebe and some Black necked grebes. A Common kingfisher flew over as an arrow, he was also calling. Above the water we saw hunting Black terns.

We had a lovely day on Texel with excellent weather, blue skies and 20 degrees celcius.





We managed to “catch” the following birdspecies on this daytour:

Barnacle goose, Greylag goose, Egyptian goose, Mute swan, Common shelduck, Northern shoveler, Gadwall, Eurasian wigeon, Mallard, Northern pintail, Common teal, Common pochard, Tufted duck, Common eider, Common pheasant, Stock dove, Wood pigeon, Feral pigeon, Eurasian collared dove, Moorhen, Eurasian coot, Little grebe, Great crested grebe, Black necked grebe, Eurasian oystercatcher, Pied avocet, Northern lapwing, Golden plover, Common ringed plover, Curlew, Whimbrel, Bar tailed godwit, Black tailed godwit, Rudy turnstone, Red knot, Ruff, Curlew sandpiper, Sanderling, Dunlin, Common snipe, Common sandpiper, Green sandpiper, Common redshank, Common greenshank, Black headed gull, Hering gull, Lesser black backed gull, Greater black backed gull, Mew gull, Sandwich tern, Common tern, Little tern, Black tern, Great cormorant, Eurasian spoonbill, Grey heron, Great egret, Little egret, Sparrow hawk, Common buzzard, Western marsh harrier, Common kingfisher (just heard), Common kestrel, Red backed shrike, Eurasian magpie, Western jackdaw, Carion crow, Blue tit, Great tit, Sand martin, House martin, Barn swallow, Common chiffchaff, Wren (just heard), Starling, Stonechat, Northern wheatear, House sparrow, Dunnock, Yellow wagtail, White wagtail, Meadow pipet, Common chaffinch, European greenfinch, European goldfinch & Common linet.

86 birdspecies!



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