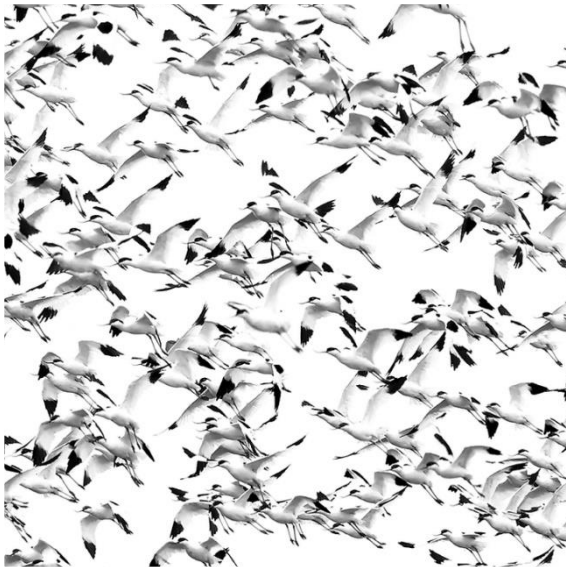


# Tour Report

## Holland's Summer Birding

21 - 25 August 2024

Avocet flock



Red-necked phalaropes



Juvenile red-backed shrike



Pale morph juvenile honey buzzard



Compiled by Martijn Bot

It was finally and inevitably time to pick up the excursion thread again. However, I did so without any form of reluctance and with great pleasure, because fortunately I still experience my work as a 'jobby', as the English so nicely put it. It were also English people with whom I was allowed to spend the first five 'working days'.

**Day 1:**

**Wednesday 21 August 2024**

Pick-up Schiphol, Oostvaardersplassen

It all took a bit longer than it should have at Schiphol Airport, so we only had a few hours left to visit the Oostvaardersplassen on the way to the "base camp" for the trip in Zuidhorn. This area is a great first introduction to the Dutch avifauna and is literally on the route.

The first species could be noted quite quickly from some of the well-known viewing points, with the now almost inevitable white-tailed eagles being the eye-catchers again. We also saw several marsh harriers, quite a few ruddy shelducks, many spoonbills, a sparrowhawk, a set of common species, and the first white-tailed eagle of the trip.



Because Caspian gulls are not common in England, we also stopped briefly at a gulling hotspot. There the target species was easily and quickly found and after another adult white-tailed eagle flew over, the first hours of birding in the Netherlands were over for the group.



**Day 2:**

**Thursday 22 August 2024**

Wadden Sea coast between Westhoek and Lauwersmeer

Initially, the weather forecasts were fine for these five days, but as the trip approached, more and more precipitation but especially more and more wind was predicted. And unfortunately, the weather people turned out to be right this time, because this day started with a strong breeze and ended with something that looked very much like a storm. That is of course far from ideal, especially because, due to the favourable timing of the tide and the forecasts for the days after, we wanted to be at the coast all day.

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Anyway, we had no choice but to face the circumstances. Westhoek indeed turned out to be draughty, but because the wind had a southern component, the tide, which was supposed to come in high, was blown back into the sea a bit. As a result, it eventually came in high, but it went smoothly and we literally saw the birds coming closer step by step.

Nevertheless, it turned out not to be the best day ever at this hotspot. The number of birds have been higher and the various waders have been easier to check, but it was enjoyable nonetheless. We were presented with a wide range of species and plumages. Unfortunately, we did not pick out any rarities, but the number of species was not bad: little stint, dunlin, ringed plover, curlew sandpiper, knot, grey plover, golden plover, common snipe, black-tailed godwit, bar-tailed godwit, curlew, Eurasian curlew, oystercatcher, avocet, redshank, black-tailed godwit, turnstone, ruff and lapwing made up the 18 waders here. Furthermore, an adult Mediterranean gull was a nice surprise. At Zwarte Haan, a hobby also flew by and some black terns, mainly juveniles, were present.



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We slowly headed eastwards and ended up at Friesland-Buitendijks. There we encountered large numbers of golden plovers, but also green sandpipers, another hobby and a juvenile peregrine falcon.

On the pier of Holwerd the wind had free rein, but we braved the conditions like we should. A western sandpiper had been seen here for several days, on and off. It constitutes only the second sighting ever for the Netherlands. Just when we arrived, the first birds were beginning to return after high tide and we were immediately successful: the bird showed itself from fairly close by. The Terek sandpiper, which also appeared to be hanging around here, was so flighty that it did not stay in the same place for 10 seconds and unfortunately we just missed it. In our defense: the wind was howling like crazy by now and it was therefore terribly difficult to search with the wind right in our faces. But if you leave the pier with a western sandpiper 'in the pocket', you can't complain. It may not be a spectacular creature to see, but when you know how rare it is and where it must have hatched, you can't help but be impressed!

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We had already seen over 20 species of waders and added red-necked phalarope at our last stop. A windy but productive birding day!



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**Day 3:**

**Friday 23 August 2024**

Fochteloërveen, Drents-Friese Wold, Diependal

We can be brief about the morning: windy, drizzly and grey. During a short walk in the forest the wind drowned out all possible sounds and songbirds were hardly to be found. In the Fochteloërveen the minibus and the observation tower called “The Seven” were the places from where you could at least do something without being blown over or getting soaked. With great difficulty we pulled out a nice group of cranes (36 birds), a white-tailed eagle and a few songbirds, but the English group did not get a good impression of the charm and potential that the area of course does have.

For another roof over our heads we moved to Diependal bird hide. Fortunately we had a few entertaining hours there, with some beautiful birds nearby. Red-backed shrikes, cranes, whooper swans, kingfishers, spotted redshanks, an osprey, three Caspian terns, common snipes and some more common species kept us inside much longer than I initially expected. In the last hour the sun actually



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started to shine and the birds got an even happier look.



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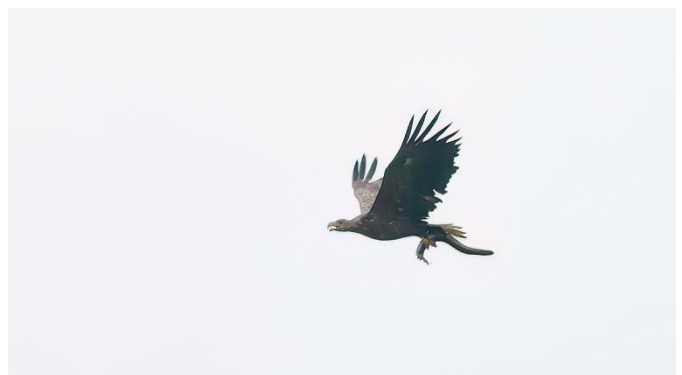
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**Day 4:**  
Matsloot, Onlanden and Lauwersmeer

**Saturday 24 August 2024**

The day started cloudy, sometimes slightly drizzly, but for a change without wind. A relief, and in both Matsloot and the Onlanden that immediately resulted in some reed birds such as the sedge warbler, reed bunting and bearded tit (calling). Furthermore, it was also a pleasant morning in terms of other species, with several Caspian terns, an osprey, two white-tailed eagles (one of which flew over us with an eel in its claws), a honey buzzard, two juvenile whinchats and a hopping stoat.



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In the afternoon we headed for Lauwersmeer, where our faithful friend the wind had returned. A walk around the area nevertheless brought many niceties: black terns, harbour porpoises, Caspian terns, hundreds of ruffs, a marsh sandpiper, a few grey phalaropes, seven cattle egrets, three eared grebes and a nice set of waders. The most remarkable sighting was that of a grey morph cockatiel flying straight across the wadden sea to the east!



**Day 5:**  
Fochteloërveen, Noord-Holland en drop-off op Schiphol

**Sunday 25 August 2024**

The last day was a second chance for the Fochteloërveen, because there was actually sunshine and not too much wind predicted. It turned out to be a good choice, because a walk brought among other things two short-toed eagles (that's what we came for), two cranes, a hobby, a whinchat, a red-backed shrike and two honey buzzards, including a beautiful, light morph juvenile!

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Maybe my bird of the trip: a delicious pale morph juvenile honey buzzard!



We decided to drive back to Schiphol via North Holland and were able to take in some places that I don't go that often myself. Balgzandpolder was full of waders and if I had been alone I would have liked to stay there for another hour, scanning all waders hoping for a rarity or two. However, after half an hour (three-toed sandpiper and little egret were new to the trip list here) we went on to some inundated bulb fields. After a few pools with only "regular" species we managed to finish off with a beautiful and rare pectoral sandpiper. It was literally the last bird in the telescope, because after that it was time to go to

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the airport.



Hopefully we'll get a new chance next year, with hopefully a bit better weather!

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# Checklist for Summer Birding in Holland



|    | Common Name          | Scientific Name               | Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 | Day 5 |
|----|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|    | <b>BIRDS</b>         |                               |       |       |       |       |       |
| 1  | Canada goose         | <i>Branta canadensis</i>      |       |       |       | ✓     | ✓     |
| 2  | Barnacle goose       | <i>Branta leucopsis</i>       |       |       |       | ✓     |       |
| 3  | Greylag goose        | <i>Anser anser</i>            | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     |
| 4  | Mute swan            | <i>Cygnus olor</i>            | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     |
| 5  | Common shelduck      | <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>        | ✓     | ✓     |       | ✓     |       |
| 6  | Ruddy shelduck       | <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>     | ✓     |       |       |       |       |
| 7  | Northern shoveler    | <i>Spatula clypeata</i>       |       | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     |       |
| 8  | Gadwall              | <i>Mareca strepera</i>        | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     |
| 9  | Eurasian wigeon      | <i>Mareca penelope</i>        |       |       |       | ✓     |       |
| 10 | Mallard              | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     |
| 11 | Eurasian teal        | <i>Anas crecca</i>            |       | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     |       |
| 12 | Tufted duck          | <i>Aythya fuligula</i>        |       | ✓     |       | ✓     | ✓     |
| 13 | Common eider         | <i>Somateria mollissima</i>   |       |       |       | ✓     |       |
| 14 | Little grebe         | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> |       |       | ✓     |       |       |
| 15 | Great crested grebe  | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>     |       |       | ✓     | ✓     |       |
| 16 | Black-necked grebe   | <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>   |       |       |       | ✓     |       |
| 17 | White stork          | <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>        | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     |
| 18 | Eurasian spoonbill   | <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>    | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     |       |
| 19 | Western cattle egret | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>          |       |       |       | ✓     |       |
| 20 | Grey heron           | <i>Ardea cinerea</i>          | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     |
| 21 | Great egret          | <i>Ardea alba</i>             | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     |       |
| 22 | Little egret         | <i>Egretta garzetta</i>       |       |       |       |       | ✓     |
| 23 | Great cormorant      | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>    | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     | ✓     |

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|    |                        |                               |   |   |   |   |   |
|----|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 24 | Western osprey         | <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>      |   |   | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| 25 | European honey-buzzard | <i>Pernis apivorus</i>        |   |   |   | ✓ | ✓ |
| 26 | Eurasian sparrowhawk   | <i>Accipiter nisus</i>        | ✓ |   | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| 27 | Western marsh harrier  | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>     | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 28 | White-tailed eagle     | <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>   | ✓ |   | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| 29 | Common buzzard         | <i>Buteo buteo</i>            | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 30 | Water rail             | <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>       |   |   | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| 31 | Common moorhen         | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>    |   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| 32 | Eurasian coot          | <i>Fulica atra</i>            | ✓ |   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 33 | Common crane           | <i>Grus grus</i>              |   |   | ✓ |   | ✓ |
| 34 | Eurasian oystercatcher | <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>  | ✓ | ✓ |   | ✓ | ✓ |
| 35 | Pied avocet            | <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> | ✓ | ✓ |   | ✓ | ✓ |
| 36 | Northern lapwing       | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>      | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 37 | European golden plover | <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>    |   | ✓ |   | ✓ |   |
| 38 | Grey plover            | <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>   |   | ✓ |   |   | ✓ |
| 39 | Common ringed plover   | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>   |   | ✓ |   | ✓ | ✓ |
| 40 | Whimbrel               | <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>      | ✓ |   |   |   |   |
| 41 | Eurasian curlew        | <i>Numenius arquata</i>       |   | ✓ |   |   | ✓ |
| 42 | Black-tailed godwit    | <i>Limosa limosa</i>          |   | ✓ |   | ✓ | ✓ |
| 43 | Bar-tailed godwit      | <i>Limosa lapponica</i>       |   | ✓ |   |   | ✓ |
| 44 | Ruddy turnstone        | <i>Arenaria interpres</i>     |   | ✓ |   | ✓ | ✓ |
| 45 | Red knot               | <i>Calidris canutus</i>       |   | ✓ |   |   | ✓ |
| 46 | Ruff                   | <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>     | ✓ | ✓ |   | ✓ | ✓ |
| 47 | Curlew sandpiper       | <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>    |   | ✓ |   | ✓ | ✓ |
| 48 | Sanderling             | <i>Calidris alba</i>          |   |   |   |   | ✓ |
| 49 | Dunlin                 | <i>Calidris alpina</i>        |   | ✓ |   | ✓ | ✓ |
| 50 | Purple sandpiper       | <i>Calidris maritima</i>      |   |   |   |   |   |
| 51 | Little stint           | <i>Calidris minuta</i>        |   | ✓ |   | ✓ |   |
| 52 | Pectoral sandpiper     | <i>Calidris melanotos</i>     |   |   |   |   | ✓ |
| 53 | Common snipe           | <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>    |   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| 54 | Red-necked phalarope   | <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>     |   | ✓ |   | ✓ |   |
| 55 | Common sandpiper       | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>     |   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 56 | Green sandpiper        | <i>Tringa ochropus</i>        | ✓ |   |   |   |   |
| 57 | Common redshank        | <i>Tringa totanus</i>         | ✓ | ✓ |   | ✓ | ✓ |

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|    |                           |                                   |   |   |   |   |   |
|----|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 58 | Marsh sandpiper           | <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>         |   |   |   | ✓ |   |
| 59 | Spotted redshank          | <i>Tringa erythropus</i>          |   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| 60 | Common greenshank         | <i>Tringa nebularia</i>           |   |   | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| 61 | Black-headed gull         | <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 62 | Mediterranean gull        | <i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i> |   | ✓ |   |   |   |
| 63 | Mew gull                  | <i>Larus canus</i>                | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 64 | Great black-backed gull   | <i>Larus marinus</i>              | ✓ | ✓ |   | ✓ |   |
| 65 | European herring gull     | <i>Larus argentatus</i>           | ✓ | ✓ |   | ✓ | ✓ |
| 66 | Caspian gull              | <i>Larus cachinnans</i>           | ✓ |   |   |   |   |
| 67 | Lesser black-backed gull  | <i>Larus graellsii</i>            | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 68 | Caspian tern              | <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>         |   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| 69 | Common tern               | <i>Sterna hirundo</i>             | ✓ | ✓ |   | ✓ |   |
| 70 | Black tern                | <i>Chlidonias niger</i>           |   | ✓ |   | ✓ | ✓ |
| 71 | Stock dove                | <i>Columba oenas</i>              |   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 72 | Common wood pigeon        | <i>Columba palumbus</i>           | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| 73 | Eurasian collared dove    | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>      |   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 74 | Common swift              | <i>Apus apus</i>                  |   | ✓ |   | ✓ |   |
| 75 | Common kingfisher         | <i>Alcedo atthis</i>              |   |   | ✓ |   |   |
| 76 | Lesser spotted woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos minor</i>          |   |   |   |   | ✓ |
| 77 | Great spotted woodpecker  | <i>Dendrocopos major</i>          |   |   |   | ✓ | ✓ |
| 78 | Common kestrel            | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>          | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 79 | Eurasian hobby            | <i>Falco subbuteo</i>             |   | ✓ | ✓ |   |   |
| 80 | Peregrine falcon          | <i>Falco peregrinus</i>           |   | ✓ |   |   |   |
| 81 | Red-backed shrike         | <i>Lanius collurio</i>            |   |   | ✓ |   | ✓ |
| 82 | Eurasian jay              | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>        |   |   | ✓ |   | ✓ |
| 83 | Eurasian magpie           | <i>Pica pica</i>                  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| 84 | Western jackdaw           | <i>Corvus monedula</i>            | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 85 | Rook                      | <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>          | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 86 | Carrion crow              | <i>Corvus corone</i>              | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 87 | Eurasian blue tit         | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>        |   |   | ✓ |   |   |
| 88 | Great tit                 | <i>Parus major</i>                |   |   | ✓ |   |   |
| 89 | Sand martin               | <i>Riparia riparia</i>            | ✓ | ✓ |   | ✓ |   |
| 90 | Barn swallow              | <i>Hirundo rustica</i>            | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 91 | Common house martin       | <i>Delichon urbicum</i>           | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

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|     |                        |                                |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----|------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 92  | Common chiffchaff      | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>  |   |   | ✓ |   |   |
| 93  | Eurasian reed warbler  | <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> |   |   |   | ✓ |   |
| 94  | Savi's warbler         | <i>Locustella luscinioides</i> |   |   |   | ✓ |   |
| 95  | Eurasian blackcap      | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>      |   |   |   |   | ✓ |
| 96  | Lesser whitethroat     | <i>Sylvia curruca</i>          |   |   |   | ✓ |   |
| 97  | Goldcrest              | <i>Regulus regulus</i>         |   | ✓ |   |   |   |
| 98  | Eurasian wren          | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> |   | ✓ |   |   |   |
| 99  | Eurasian nuthatch      | <i>Sitta europaea</i>          |   | ✓ |   |   |   |
| 100 | Short-toed treecreeper | <i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>   |   | ✓ |   |   |   |
| 101 | Common starling        | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>        | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| 102 | Common blackbird       | <i>Turdus merula</i>           |   |   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 103 | Song thrush            | <i>Turdus philomelos</i>       |   | ✓ |   |   |   |
| 104 | Whinchat               | <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>        |   |   |   | ✓ |   |
| 105 | European stonechat     | <i>Saxicola rubicola</i>       | ✓ |   |   | ✓ | ✓ |
| 106 | House sparrow          | <i>Passer domesticus</i>       | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 107 | Eurasian tree sparrow  | <i>Passer montanus</i>         |   |   |   | ✓ |   |
| 108 | Western yellow wagtail | <i>Motacilla flava</i>         | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 109 | White wagtail          | <i>Motacilla alba</i>          | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 110 | Meadow pipit           | <i>Anthus pratensis</i>        |   | ✓ |   | ✓ | ✓ |
| 111 | Common linnet          | <i>Linaria cannabina</i>       |   |   |   |   | ✓ |
| 112 | European goldfinch     | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>     |   |   |   |   | ✓ |
| 113 | Common reed bunting    | <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>    |   |   | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| 114 | Western sandpiper      | <i>Calidris mauri</i>          |   | ✓ |   |   |   |
| 115 | Whooper swan           | <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>           |   |   | ✓ |   |   |
| 116 | Short-toed eagle       | <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>      |   |   |   |   | ✓ |
|     |                        |                                |   |   |   |   |   |

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