



**Spring Wetland Birds – Holland, 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> May 2012**





## Itinerary

### Tour Leader: Paul Hobson

**Day 1:** We are all booked to arrive in Schipol at roughly the same time around noon. If you can send me your flight details then we will be able to meet you as you arrive. Our plan is to drive the 3 hours to Den Helder to catch the boat to the island of Texel. We will go straight to our accommodation where we will be based for the duration of this part of our trip. I propose we go out straight away to try for the avocets and waders. We can make some sandwiches to last us while we are out so we will eat later on when you will get to try our home cooking for your first evening meal!

**Day 2:** We have a full day on Texel to explore this beautiful Island rich in wildlife. Our first port of call will be avocets so it is an early start to get there for first light. We then visit a good location for harriers and spoonbills where we can also try for blue throat. After dinner we will go back to the avocet location for some more photographs of this beautiful bird, along with redshank, ringed plover and shelduck.



**Day 3:** Our last morning on Texel will again be an early start for the avocets and then we will be heading back to the mainland to begin our second part of the trip. In the afternoon we will reach our base and again will head out before dinner for some more photography which will include waders such as black tailed godwits.

**Days 4/5:** From our base we will be visiting the location for more shots of black tailed godwits. On one of these days we plan to visit a location for bluethroat. We will be going to a superb location for black-necked grebe and will possibly visit this more than once as it is an excellent opportunity to work with this beautiful species. Weather will of course play a key role in our decision making. The precise schedule will be very flexible based on a combination of the elements and individual priorities. There's a fair amount of flexibility so we'll review on a daily basis.



**Day 6:** We are again all booked to leave at roughly the same time so will head to the airport in the morning for our return flights.

### **What to Bring**

Our accommodation is clean and comfortable but basic. All bedding and towels are provided and as you know Paul and I will be doing the cooking too, so you simply

need to bring yourself; any special dietary requirements you may have – please let us know and also if there's anything you can't/won't eat!! In terms of clothing you'll obviously need plenty of warm and weather proof clothing. The vast majority of your time will involve spending time outdoors so we could get wet so make sure you bring a change of clothing. You won't need serious arctic gear for this trip but the following are very much recommended - a good pair of strong waterproof walking boots, good waterproof overtrousers. For the top half it's very much a question of having several layers – like a thermal type vest, t-shirt, thin jumper, fleece and a waterproof coat with a spare jumper or two at hand. You'll know your own cold thresholds but it really is a question of build it up in layers. A good hat, some fingerless mittens and then some warm waterproof gloves to go over the top (the former so that when you come to photograph your fingers can still work the camera) are ideal.



In terms of camera kit you'll need a tripod, the longest lens you have (500mm + convertor would be my recommendation/choice) and then some supplementary lenses for other opportunities such as a 24-70mm for landscapes, I always have a macro lens of some sort and then maybe an intermediate zoom (70-200 or 100-400) so that I don't miss anything in terms of opportunity. You'll get the chance to decide what you want/need each morning anyway so won't be burdening yourself with it all all of the time either. If you don't have a 500mm lens it is worth exploring hiring one for the trip, it's not too expensive and the Canon 500mm or Nikon 200-400 with convertor are approximately £45 per day plus a 20% discount if booked through Natures Images. Here is a link to the website:  
<http://www.theflashcentre.com/rental-department-faq-c414.html>

In the evenings we will have a chance to critique and look at individuals work if you wish so feel free to bring anything you'd like to share your images, either a laptop or

memory pen/CD. We will eat in most nights so you really won't need much in the way of cash so don't bring a fortune!



Our trip to Holland is a very hectic one because we have so much to do in such a short space of time and we have to cover long distances to get too many of the locations. Early morning starts are the norm especially if the weather forecast is good and of course that can mean working quite late into the evening as well, so please be prepared for this outcome. If at any point during the trip you need to take a break or have any problems please feel free to address them with us.



My contact number in the build up to and for the duration of the trip is 01952 411436 or 07905 569685 and Paul's mobile contact number is 07505351821.

See you in Amsterdam!!!!

*Paul*

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