

Phototrip Poland

31 October - 3 November 2022



From 31 October - 3 November we went with eight photographers for a short trip to Poland to photograph White-tailed Eagles.

Day 1:

I had agreed with a traveling companion that I would come to his house in Gouda and then continue with him. Around 04:30 am I was in Gouda and we drove to Hilversum where the rest of the group joined. It was a long drive, but with enough stops so we could stretch our legs every now and then. Along the way we saw many Common Buzzards, some Roe Deer, some Common Cranes, a Hooded Crow, a Hare and a Red Fox. Around 5:25 pm we arrived at hotel Karczma Babski Jadło in Gostynin. I had a beautiful room to myself. At 6:30 pm we went for dinner. After a nice meal we were informed about the plans for the coming days and about the rules in the hides. Then I went to bed early.

Day 2:

I was awake very early. I took a shower, made a cup of instant coffee, had breakfast and prepared my packed lunch. At 04:45 am we were picked up by Marcin Nawrocki and his colleague with two off-road vehicles and taken to the cabins near Baruchowo. There was a lot of fog and that would be the case all day. Before reaching the hides we had to walk quite a bit on a bad forest path with many puddles and deep gullies so our headlamps were of great use. When it was still dark we could hear the Northern Ravens on the field and some White-tailed Eagles. That morning we had many Ravens on the field and about 16 White-tailed Eagles. It was a beautiful experience.



Around 3:00 pm we slowly started walking back to the cars. At 06:00 pm we had dinner at the hotel. I went to bed early.

Day 3:

The alarm went off at 3:30 am. After breakfast we were picked up at the hotel again at 04:45 AM and taken to the cabins. I was in another hide as the day before. In the morning a large group of Ravens came onto the field and then the Eagles arrived too. The Eagles only come to the ground when the Ravens are eating. As yesterday the day started with fog. This morning there were 27 White-tailed Eagles on the field. I tried to make flight shots and sometimes had to be very patient, while focussing on a bird and kept waiting for it to take off.



Around 3:00 PM we left the cabin again and walked to the cars. In the evening we had another extensive dinner and went early to bed.

Day 4:

Another early start of the day. Today I was in the same hide as yesterday. The weather however was very different. It was bright and sunny. The Ravens and White-tailed Eagles were very early on the field when it was still dark and today we had around 20 Eagles on the field.



They all left quite early and for some time there were no birds at all, but suddenly a Great Grey Shrike appeared and kept us busy for a while.

When we arrived back at the hotel we said goodbye to Marcin and his colleague and started packing. We had an early dinner because of All Souls' Day.

Day 5:

This morning we didn't have to wake up so early, because we were driving back home again. We had breakfast at 08:00 am and then drove back to Holland. On the way back we saw some Common Cranes, some Roe Deer and a Fallow Deer. The trip went smoothly and I was back home at around 10:30 pm.

It was a very successful trip. We saw a lot of White-tailed Eagles and we all could make some great photos of these impressive birds. Now and again they were fighting each other over the meat. We could make some nice flight shots as well.

More pictures: <https://pbase.com/tukkl00/zeearend>