

Tour date: 11th and 12th May 2013

Name of area visited: Texel Southernmost of the northern Islands in the Netherlands.

Report written by: Robert de Groot and Rik Feije

Nederlandse naam	English name	Wetenschappelijke/ Scientific name	11 May 2013	12 May 2013
fuut	great crested grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	1	1
dodaars	little grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		1
Kuifduiker	Horned grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	1	
aalscholver	great cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	1	1
jan van gent	gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>		1
roerdomp	great bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>		1
blauwe reiger	grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	1	1
lepelaar	eurasian spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	1	1
knobbelzwaan	mute swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	1	
grauwe gans	greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	1	1
grote canadese gans	canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	1	
brandgans	barnacle goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	1	1
rotgans	brent goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	1	1
bergeend	common shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	1	1
nijlgans	egyptian goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>	1	1
smient	eurasian wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>		1
wilde eend	mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	1	1
krakeend	gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	1	1
pijlstaart	northern pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	1	
slobeend	northern shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	1	1
wintertaling	common teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		1
krooneend	red-crested pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>		1
tafeleend	common pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	1	1
kuifeend	tufted duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	1	1
eider	eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	1	1
zwarte zeeeend	common scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>		1
blauwe kiekendief	hen harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	1	
bruine kiekendief	marsh harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	1	1
sperwer	eurasian sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1	
buizerd	common buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1	
torenvalk	common kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1	1
fazant	common pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	1	1
meerkoet	common coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	1	1
scholekster	oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	1	1
kluut	avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	1	1
bontbekplevier	greater ringed plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	1	1
kleine plevier	lesser ringed plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		1

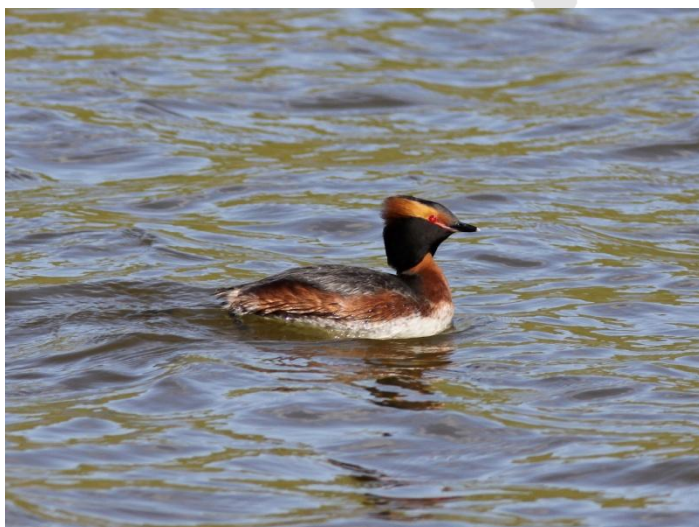
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morinelplevier	dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>	1	
zilverplevier	grey plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	1	
goudplevier	european golden plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	1	
kievit	northern lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	1	1
steenloper	turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	1	1
kanoet	red knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	1	
drieteenstrandloper	sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	1	1
gestreepte strandloper	pectoral sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	1	
bonte strandloper	dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	1	
kleine strandloper	little stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	1	1
kemphaan	ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>		1
wulp	eurasian curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	1	1
grutto	black-tailed godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	1	1
rosse grutto	bar-tailed godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	1	1
tureluur	common redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	1	1
groenpootruiter	common greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	1	1
bosruiter	wood sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	1	
oeverloper	common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	1	1
dwergmeeuw	little gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	1	
kokmeeuw	black-headed gull	<i>Croicocephalus ridibundus</i>	1	1
stormmeeuw	common gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	1	1
zilvermeeuw	herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	1	1
grote mantelmeeuw	greater black-backed gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	1	1
kleine mantelmeeuw	lesser black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	1	1
grote stern	sandwich tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	1	1
visdief	common tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	1	1
houtduif	wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	1	1
holenduif	stock pigeon	<i>Columba oenas</i>	1	1
turkse tortel	collard dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	1	
zomertortel	turtle dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		1
koekoek	common cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	1	1
gierzwaluw	common swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	1	1
grote bonte specht	great spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	1	1
veldleeuwerik	sky lark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	1	1
oeverzwaluw	sand martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	1	
boerenzwaluw	barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	1	1
huiszwaluw	house martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	1	1
graspieper	meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	1	1
witte kwikstaart	white wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	1	1
gele kwikstaart	yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	1	1
winterkoning	wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	1	1
heggemus	hedge accentor	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	1	1
roodborst	robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		1
nachtegaal	rufous nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	1	1
blauwborst	bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	1	1
paapje	whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	1	
roodborsttapuit	common stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		1
tapuit	northern wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	1	
merel	blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	1	1
rietzanger	sedge warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	1	1

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kleine karekiet	reed warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	1	1
spotvogel	icterine warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>		1
tuinfluiter	garden warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		1
braamsluiper	lesser whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	1	
grasmus	common whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	1	1
zwartkop	blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	1	1
fitis	willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	1	1
tjiftjaf	chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	1	1
bonte vliegenvanger	piep flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		1
pimpelmees	blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	1	1
koolmees	great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	1	1
boomkruiper	short-toed treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>		1
spreeuw	common starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	1	1
gaai	eurasian jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		1
ekster	magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	1	1
kauw	eurasian jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	1	1
zwarte kraai	carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	1	1
huismus	house sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	1	1
vink	chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	1	1
groenling	greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	1	1
putter	goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	1	1
kneu	linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	1	1
rietgors	reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	1	1
		<i>number of species</i>	93	90
		<i>totaal</i>	110	

Weather: On Saturday 11th of May, rain had started before we reached the island. Combined with a fierce wind it made birdwatching outside into a cold pastime. After about 13.00 hrs the weather improved, the rain stopped but the wind continued. Sunny spells. The next day, Sunday 12th of May, was still very windy but with prolonged periods of sunshine. Wind 5 B from the west.



Highlight of the weekend: One of us had recently started watching birds, with 15 lifers it is difficult to choose. Dotterel was a new species for 4 of us, so it vied for first place with a superbly coloured Horned Grebe. The former however was observed in between rain squalls, while the latter floated, swam and dived in bright sunlight.

Say for yourself, good candidate eh...

Picture by Rik Feije, Flevo Bird Watching.

The trip.

We teamed up for this weekend. Flevo Bird Watching and Finca Rafiki Birdwatching organised the seven man effort.

This trip fell into the "Nationale Vogelweek" (the Dutch Birding Week) and that culminates into a weekend during which many activities are organised on the Island of Texel. It meant that many "hardcore" birders were on the island, as well as a lot of people that are kind of "baptised" into the art of birdwatching. All sorts of "Intermediate" levels are represented as well. This partly determined our itinerary.

Areas visited.

At one moment a Great Snipe, *Gallinago media* was seen by two people in the Waal en Burg area. That made us turn the car around, and we sped off to try to see it. By the time we arrived, a dozen of cars were there, but the large percentage of telescopes that were standing idle on the side of the road told us that the bird was not in view. It stayed out of view for the remainder of the weekend. The original observers however had shots to back up their claim. We continued to crisscross the island. Let's put some order into that.

Some species were found to be widely distributed over the island, like: Greylag, Marsh Harrier, Meadow Pipit, White and Yellow Wagtail, Whitethroat and Linnet. Others were seen on all shores: apart from the gulls, Spoonbill, Common Tern, Shelduck, Bar Tailed Godwit and Dunlin. In order to make the report be more useful to plan a trip, I'll describe the areas that we visited in a geographical order, clockwise along the perimeter of the island, starting at the ferry.

- **Petten**. A kilometre west of the ferry. Inland brakish water. One bird captivated us for a while. In the end we decided that it was a Common Tern, but the dark bill, pink wash over the lower body and quite long streamers had us think about Roseate. The colour of the upper mantle and that of the wingtip was in line with our final verdict. Would have been nice. A few Sandwich Tern, many other Common Terns, Redshank, Bar Tailed Godwit, Ringed Plover and Avocet.
- **Mokbaai**. Tidal inlet, former flying boat training base. Some Curlew, big flock of Black Tailed Godwit, Dunlin, Eider Duck. The Jungle Telephone reported a Black Kite, but that was more than half an hour before we arrived here.
- **Horsmeertjes**. A magnificent Red Crested Pochard was swimming next to the reedbeds on the opposite shore. We could see it, but the observers on that side, who were much closer, missed it because of the reedbeds. We heard Cuckoo, which we saw later at the Slufter and Great Bittern, the only bird we did not see, but hear. Little Grebe had been seen in the Geul and trilled its song a bit later.
- **Paal 9**. A steady stream of Common Scoters and a single Gannet. Sanderling running over the wet sand, next to the waves and the foam that was blown onshore. Good coffee in the restaurant.
- **Dennenbos**. A stand of mature trees, both pine and deciduous. One singing bird after another: Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Wren, Treecreeper, Jay (OK, singing taken in a liberal sense) and Willow Warbler.
- **De Muy**. This low lying area is found between the village of the Koog and the Slufter area. It is bordered on western and eastern side by dunes. This being the breeding season, we could not go into the area proper, but the newly laid footpath that runs parallel to the coast allows a visit. We found a Pied Flycatcher, male. Very striking black and white pattern. Flying in and out of the vegetation, we could see it for some five minutes. When it sits still, on the lookout for the next insect, it is not a bird that is as obvious as you would think. When it flies, you pick it out easily.
- **De Slufter**. The best, quietest, entrance is at the end of a road called Oorsprongsweg. The entrance at Slufterweg has a restaurant. De Slufter is an area where the first row of dunes has been breached. So in between the dunes is a wetland, with creeks, pools and mudflats

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that is very attractive to birds. Take the paved footpath over the dunes. Once you have gone over the summit, a viewpoint is on the left side.

- **Tuintjes.** Opposite the Robbenjager restaurant is an entrance into this area, it is leading onto a bicycle path. We used, however, the path that starts about 220 meters nearer to the lighthouse, to the right a.k.a. NW. This follows the foot of the dunes a bit closer and leads to some deserted gardens, "Tuintjes". During migration all kinds of rare birds are attracted to this bit of willow, moist grass and brambles. We had Willow Warbler and a few of the many Whitethroat this weekend. The Stonechat we hoped for did not show itself. Wheatear a bit further into the area.
- **De Robbenjager area and Reddingboothuis.** Jungle telephone reported Pectoral Sandpiper. *Angina pectoralis* is clearly a malfunction in the thorax that occurs when you run towards that bird. Some people looked like they were suffering from that disorder. But the bird showed well and tens of birders must have noted a lifer in the form of this Yank. A lone Pintail, a single Bluethroat and a Gadwall attracted less attention.
- **Ganzenreservaat** This area lies about 1.5 km SE of de Cocksdorp. Follow the road along the canal and take the left fork into a dead end street. Do mind the no entry sign after about 100 meters, the farmer owns very wide, heavy equipment which can be used to make a statement. You can however walk a bit further and still scan for Geese and other birds that frequent the grasslands.
- **Hollandse weg.** This is where we found Dotterel. To think that a brilliantly coloured bird will be clearly visible is erroneous. We spoke to a birdwatcher that said he had seen five in the previous minutes. An encouraging observation. But with the rain going horizontal you only want to look downwind, and stay inside the car. So we tried and it took some minutes before we actually spotted the first Dotterel. Moving in Plover fashion, making short runs, they were only in view if they ran over the field that was covered with lumps of clay and bits of vegetation, left after harvesting the previous autumn. It seemed they all moved to the west, so by slowly scanning the whole field against the direction the birds were going, we eventually counted 18 birds, a lot of them in full summer plumage. It was clear now why so many years this bird had evaded observation for a number of birders that were in the group.
- **Utopia** Recently designed nature. An area of meadowland, hardly fit for sheep has been converted into a wetland. Muddy parts, a few shallow islands. The main birds of interest (ones we did not yet have on the list at that moment) were Yellow Wagtails. Very yellow, Dandelion coloured, Wagtails. Subspecies *flava*. The canal that runs towards the next point, de Bol, was fringed by some two dozen birders with accompanying telephoto lenses and spotting scopes. Their subject of attention was a Horned Grebe, brilliantly red and chestnut. Afir, it all has been said before.
- **De Bol** On the Waddenzee side we saw a huge concentration of Eider.
- **Lancasterweg.** This is the road between Utopia and the village of Oudeschild. It runs at the foot of the dike of the Waddenzee. The road is named after a WW-II bomber that crashed hclose by. Along the road is a succession of brackish water ponds and mudflats. Some seawater seeps past underneath the dike. Most of these ponds have been set aside now for nature. They have small islets that hold resting and breeding Black Headed Gull, Common and Sandwich Tern, Ringed Plover and Avocet. Shoveler and the omni-present Redshank abound. The areas Wagejot is the northernmost, and Ottersaat is the southernmost. In the old dike next to Nieuweschild a concrete wall with many round openings has been incorporated into the body of the dike. Many holes have been invaded by Sand Martin. A successful project to assist these birds, that are so dependent on vertical, stable, walls in which to burrow.
- **Dijkmanshuizen.** Just north of Oudeschild it can be reached from a road branching to the NW, next to Ottersaat. After 250 meters there is a hide some 50 meters away from the road. Make sure all gates are closed behind you. From the hide you have a view over a wetland that nearly always holds interesting birds. We added Ruff and Little Stint to our list. But Barnacle Goose, Brent, Greylag, Shoveler, Avocet and Redshank were there in numbers as well. In the nearby garden an Icterine Warbler sang its heart out.

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- Harbours of the Marine Research Station, NIOZ, and of the Ferry. Nothing really of interest, Turnstones, Eider offshore and the ubiquitous gulls, Herring, Black Headed, and Lesser Black Backed.



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Some areas are located in the central part of the island, the most interesting one is:

- **Waal en Burg**. Another part of the island to be developed for nature. Keep this in your sights in the future. We tried for the Great Snipe and dipped. Black Tailed Godwit, Avocet, Egyptian Goose.

How successful were we, as a team? We did see or hear 110 different species. We dipped on Great Snipe, Black Kite, Wryneck, species that came in over the Jungle Telephone. We should have seen a Song Thrush and a Moorhen somewhere, a Crossbill might have been possible, Dodo not feasible. White fronted Tern, Gos- and Sparrowhawk, both Redstarts should not have been impossible. A night out would have added maybe two Owls, and bad tempers the next day. But still a maximum list would have been about 130. We did OK, foremost we enjoyed it. Texel is a nice destination, has a lot to offer and the campsite we used, "Loodsmansduinen" is OK for this exploit.

What will be our score next year.

Map on next page.



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Different areas on Texel



Tuintjes
Lifeboat house

Slufter
Schorren

Utopia

De Bol

Waal en Burg
(mid island)

Lancasterdijk

Dijkmanshuizen

Paal 9

Oudeschild-
haven

Mokbaai

Horsmeertjes