



BALTIC BIRDS 5

RINGED PLOVER

(Charadrius hiaticula hiaticula)

The ringed plover is a delightful wading bird found on the coastline of all Baltic countries.

With the largest population in Sweden, their numbers are declining in some areas but increasing in others.

Plovers lay their eggs in shallow scrapes on the ground, and primarily feed on insects, crustaceans, and worms, which they skillfully forage from the shoreline.

Despite their adaptability, they face threats from habitat loss, human disturbance, and climate change.





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GREAT CORMORANT

(*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*)

The Great cormorant is a widespread seabird in the Baltic Sea!

Once extinct in many Baltic countries due to fishing competition and pollutants, they now thrive in southern Baltic estuaries.

While important for the ecosystem, they are sometimes viewed as a threat to aquaculture and fisheries, so their numbers are legally controlled.





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EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER

(Haematopus ostralegus)

Oystercatchers are easily recognizable by their black and white plumage and long orange-red bills.

They are widespread across the Baltic, nesting on coastal beaches, dunes, and islands, and using their strong bills to pry open shells and feed on molluscs.

They face threats from habitat loss due to coastal development and disturbance by human activities.





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TEREK SANDPIPER

(*Xenus cinereus*)

The Terek sandpiper is a charming wader that breeds in small populations in Finland and Latvia.

These birds favor shallow waters with sandy or gravelly shores and low vegetation.

They nest around industrial sites and harbours, but their numbers are low and fluctuating due to threats from predators, and habitat destruction caused by industrial activity.



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BLACK GUILLEMOT

(*Cepphus grylle*)

With its striking black plumage and red feet, the black guillemot is a seabird found along the Baltic Sea's rocky coastlines.

They are skilled divers, feeding mainly on small fish and invertebrates.

Breeding in crevices on rocky islets, their populations face threats from oil spills, pollution, and human disturbance. Protecting their coastal habitats is essential for their survival.



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